



## AREA 4 - CRANBERRY PORTAGE



**Traditional community name:**

Wiskimin onikâhp  
(pronounced Weeskemenogap,  
meaning Cranberry Carrying Place)



**Population:**

Approximately 770



**Schools:**

Cranberry Portage  
Elementary, Frontier  
Collegiate, and Engaged Learners



**Treaty territory:**

Treaty 5



**Location:**

727 km northwest of  
Winnipeg and 92 km  
north of The Pas



**Indigenous Language(s):**

Swampy Cree (N-Dialect/  
Ininimowin)



**Access:**

Paved, all-weather  
roads and by air via  
Calm Air to The Pas or Flin Flon



**Average Temperatures:**

January	July
High -16°C	High 24°C
Low -24°C	Low 13°C

### CRANBERRY PORTAGE ELEMENTARY

**Grades:** Nursery to Grade 8

**Enrollment:** Approximately 100

**Staff:** Approximately 16

### FRONTIER COLLEGIATE

**Grades:** Grade 9 to 12 and Adult Education

**Enrollment:** Approximately 275

**Staff:** Approximately 42 school staff and 50 dormitory staff

### ENGAGED LEARNERS

The Engaged Learners program offers a fresh start for students 16 to 21 years of age who have dropped out of high school and is a stepping stone to continuing their studies in trades and/or to complete high school. The program is located at a camp on the shores of First Cranberry Lake and is open to all Frontier students.

Frontier School Division is known for friendly people, cultural diversity, and the natural beauty of Northern Manitoba.

We are committed to the success of all students and believe that quality, inclusive education includes Indigenous perspectives, local language(s) and cultural programming. Providing meaningful, appropriate, and locally relevant education is a shared responsibility of all staff members.



### Dormitory

Frontier Collegiate’s 57,000 square foot dormitory houses up to 200 students from communities across Northern Manitoba. These students represent virtually every cultural-linguistic group in the province. Dormitory staff provide students with any needed supports as well as culturally relevant, fun, and safe activities to help fill their time outside of school hours.

### Teacherages

There are 37 teacherages available to teachers and dormitory staff in Cranberry Portage. Most teacherages are bungalows, however, some are duplex units and there is also a 6-plex, and a 5-unit apartment building. Frontier School Division subsidizes rental fees and provides maintenance. All teacherages are fitted with a fridge, stove, washer, and dryer and up to two pets are allowed. Cell services and wireless high-speed internet are available but must be arranged and paid for by the tenant.



### PROGRAM AND ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHT

In addition to academic high school courses, Frontier Collegiate offers many technical-vocational programs, such as carpentry, cosmetology, power mechanics, and culinary arts, all of which are taught by accomplished industry professionals. Some vocational programs lead to opportunities for apprenticeships and Red Seal designations. Graduates of Frontier Collegiate’s technical-vocational programs are well prepared for immediate employment. Frontier Collegiate is also well known for strong athletic programming and has a long history of successful graduates in various fields, including education, health, business, and community services.

### About the Community

Uniquely located on waterway “highways” that flow both north and south, Cranberry Portage has served as an important gathering place and portage for people traveling in either direction for at least 7,000 years. The Cree named the location Wiskimin onikâhp (Cranberry Carrying Place) in reference to the prevalence of low-bush Cranberries in the area.

Non-Indigenous prospectors first came to the area in the 1920s in response to news of huge mineral finds at the nearby communities of Flin Flon and Sherridon. Decades later, during the Cold War era (1950s to 1960s), the area that is now the Frontier Collegiate campus was developed as a radar station for the Canadian Armed Forces.

Decommissioned in 1964, the station was acquired by the Province of Manitoba and transferred to the newly formed Frontier School Division the following year.

Today, the elementary school and Frontier Collegiate campus are the primary employers. Local amenities include a restaurant, art gallery, and gas bar. Culturally, many current residents identify as either Métis or Cree. The Cree language continues to be spoken by some families.



**Frontier School Division spans nearly 75% of the province and is organized into 5 Areas.**



### Frontier School Division Contacts

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