



AREA 2- SKOWNAN FIRST NATION



Traditional Community Name:

Ne-biimiskonaan (To turn around the point or turning point)



Population:

Approximately 800 on reserve



Skownan School:

Grades: Nursery to Grade 9
Enrollment: Approximately 140
Staff: Approximately 34



Access:

Paved, all-weather roads



Location:

346 km north of Winnipeg, on the south shore of Waterhen Lake, between Lake Manitoba and Lake Winnipegosis.



Average Temperatures:

January

High -10 °C Low -19 °C
Extreme Low -31 °C

June

High 23 °C Low 11 °C
Extreme High 31 °C



Treaty Territory:

Treaty 2



Indigenous Language(s):

Anishinaabemowin (Ojibwe)

ABOUT THE COMMUNITY

The reserve on which this First Nation is located was originally called Ishkwaawinaaning ("turning around point"), but the name was later shortened to Skownan. Local amenities include a gas bar, convenience store, restaurant, and a health centre. Hunting, fishing and eco-tourism are all vital drivers for the local economy.

Skownan First Nation's traditional territory includes the community of Waterhen, 20 km south of the school, and continues all the way up to Chitek Lake, approximately 50 km north.

To revitalize and maintain local language and culture, Skownan First Nation provides many opportunities for community members to participate in seasonal culture camps. Beyond that, other cultural events and ceremonies include an annual traditional powwow, regular healing/sharing circles, and much more.



SUBSIDIZED HOUSING IN SKOWNAN

There are housing units for staff located within a short walk of the school. All are 2-bedroom duplexes equipped with a fridge, stove, washer and dryer. Up to two pets are allowed. Rental fees include utilities and Frontier School Division provides maintenance. Cell service and wireless internet are available but are the responsibility of the tenant.

SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

Skownan School offers students unique opportunities to learn local culture, language, and traditional land-based skills. An Ojibwe language program is available for Nursery to Grade 9, and students in Grades 8 and 9 participate in bison ranch activities held both in the community and at Chitek Lake. Across both locales, local Elders and Knowledge Keepers share traditional knowledge of the wood bison and convey related cultural practices.

One of the best opportunities to interact with and learn from local Elders and other community members comes during the annual maple syrup harvest each spring, in which students work hand in hand to learn about the methods and traditions surrounding the harvest.

REASONS TO JOIN FRONTIER SCHOOL DIVISION

- Our 39 school communities are populated with friendly people and are located in some of the most scenic areas of the province.
- There are many opportunities to engage with local Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers and to participate in local cultural events and activities.
- Frontier School Division is dedicated to the preservation and revitalization of Indigenous languages and cultures, as well as advancing the calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Committee.
- We provide our teachers with PD and other supports to ensure our students receive a quality, inclusive education that includes Indigenous perspectives, local language(s), and cultural programming.
- Frontier School Division has a unique 3-tiered, grassroots governance system to help provide meaningful, appropriate, and locally relevant education in our schools.
- Frontier School Division spans nearly 75% of the province and is organized into 5 Areas.



Frontier School Division Contacts

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