

2017 - 2018

WELCOME TO

Cat Lake First Nation



**TEACH
FOR
CANADA**



boozhoo

Cat Lake First Nation

Dear Teachers,

Welcome to Cat Lake First Nation! We are very happy that you have decided to come and teach in our community.

Cat Lake is a proud Ojibway community, located, as you might have guessed from the name, on the edge of a lake. The land around us is beautiful. You will have the opportunity to explore its beauty during your time with us, both during school hours and in your free time.

We are very proud of our new school. Since its opening, students have come back and shown a renewed interest for their education. We hope you will fuel this interest by teaching dynamic classes and also investing yourself outside of classes, organising extracurricular activities that will bring students to discover new interests and talents.

We hope you will settle in well to the community. Take the time to get to know people inside and outside of the school, and you will start to feel at home. If you have any problems, please speak to your principal, who will help you try to resolve these issues. We ask that you not go to the band council with your problems, but rather follow the correct protocol by talking to the education leadership.

Your students, colleagues, and neighbours look forward to meeting you and getting to know you!

Marie Stewart

Education Director
Cat Lake First Nation

Community



A Brief History

- 1788
- 1970
- 2003
- 2006
- 2013

The First Nation calls itself Bizhiw-zaaga'iganiwininiwag meaning "Men of Wild-cat Lake" or as Bizhiw-zaaga'iganiing Nitam Anishinaabeg meaning "The First Nation at Wild-cat Lake," where wild-cat refers to the Canada lynx.

1788 Cat Lake was originally established as a Hudson's Bay Company trading post, and later belonged to the Osnaburgh Band of Ojibway.

1970 The reserve was formally established on June 22.

2003 The First Nation was originally 218 hectares but it increased to 1771 hectares in 2003 under the Government of Canada's Addition to Reserve Policy.

2006 The school building is lost in a fire.

2013 A new school building is built.



The Land

Cat Lake First Nation is situated approximately 179 kilometers due north of Sioux Lookout in Northwestern Ontario. The Cat Lake Reserve is situated on the north shores of the Cat Lake river system. The community is located on the southeast corner of the Reserve.

Moose, caribou, beaver, muskrat, bears, geese and ducks are common in the area.

Cat Lake Community Map





Lawrence Wesley Education Centre

Welcome!

School Population

100

Grades

Kindergarten to
Grade 8

Principal

Ruby Keesickquayash

Education Director

Marie Stewart

Lawrence Wesley Education Centre is named after the school custodian who worked at the previous school for 30 years.

What is the school most proud of...

- We are very proud of our brand new school. When it opened students started coming back to school because they wanted to be in the new building.

Unique Classes Offered

- Outdoor cultural activities such as snowshoeing, shelter building, rabbit snaring, ice fishing, and nature walks.

Extracurricular Activities

Current sports activities include girls broomball, hockey, and skating. There is also an after-school baking club, reading program, and arts and crafts activities. Teachers are very welcome to start new activities, based on their own hobbies and passions.

Special Events

- Christmas concert
- Culture week in fall: school is open during the moose derby but at the end of the week the kids join the adults in the hunting camps.



A Day in the Life of a Teacher

The school day is from 8:45 to 3:45.

Lunch is from 12 to 1 pm. There is a lunch program at the school so the students eat at school. Teachers are expected to do yard duty.





Facilities

The school has capacity for over 150 students, and was built west of the developed portion of the community, on undeveloped land.

The school design was inspired by the pristine spruce and poplar boreal forest that characterizes Cat Lake First Nation. The entrance provides a broad sweeping view of the undisturbed forest, and the colours of the boreal forest throughout the seasons are used in a playful and cheerful manner inside, while the blue colours used on the exterior of the building reflect the sky and traditional school colours.

The school promotes the culture, language and values of the community. Classrooms are clustered around a high level clerestory window providing natural light, a focus and a sense of community for students. The gymnasium and media centre, incorporating the library and computer room, are separate from classrooms to allow for after-hours access and promote greater use of the facility.

Source: Architecture49

The school facilities include a library/resource centre, kitchen, gym and 6 classrooms. The front foyer also serves as the cafeteria. There is a playground and baseball diamond outside. There is a separate playground for Kindergarten students.





Teacherages

The teacherages are located right next to the school, which was built in a new sub-division.

Some of the teacherages are brand new, all of them are well maintained and in good condition. They are mostly single units but some are larger homes that can accommodate a family. Teacherages are fully furnished, including all major appliances (fridge, stove, freezer, washer, dryer, dishwasher). Teachers only need to bring towels, linens, and pillows. Rent is \$400 or \$250 a month for shared accommodation and includes utilities.

Pets are allowed so long as teachers clean up after them.





Life in the Community

Traditions and Customs

Cat Lake is a Christian anchored community. There is a Pentecostal Church, where there is a service every Sunday. There is also an Anglican Church, though it does not have a pastor and it is only open for funerals.

Community Events and Activities

- Feasts are regularly organised in the community. Teachers are welcome to attend.
- Teachers often help out when there is a tragedy in the community, e.g. a wake. Teachers usually help with the cooking and hosting.
- There is a Spring Break and a Traditional Week each year. Teachers normally don't participate in these events.
- Some years there are activities to celebrate Treaty Days.
- Bingo games are called through the local radio station.

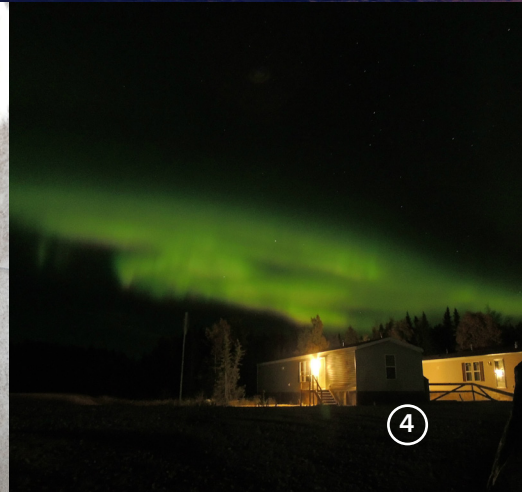
Hockey Arena

There are two outdoor hockey arenas in the community. The arena near the school is well-lit for evening games or skating.

Services

- The Northern Store is the main store and there are a few small privately-run businesses.
- Food can be ordered and shipped from Fresh Market Foods in Sioux Lookout.
- Other services include the Cat Lake Lodge, Gray's Motel, and a local radio station.

Around the Community



①

Canoes by Cat Lake

②

Hockey at sunset

③

Moccasins

④

Northern Lights

⑤

View over Cat Lake

Quick Facts

Community Name
Cat Lake First Nation

Tribal Council
Windigo First Nations Council

Provincial Territorial Organization (PTO)
Nishnawbe-Aski Nation

Population On-Reserve



800

Language Spoken



**Ojibway
and English**

Treaty



Treaty 9

Average Yearly Temperature



-20.7°C **17.5°C**
January July

Winter Road Open Dates



Jan - Mar



Getting to and from Cat Lake

- The nearest urban centre is Pickle Lake, 115 km south-east of Cat Lake; the winter road runs north from Pickle Lake and takes approximately 4-5 hours to drive to Cat Lake.
- Slate Falls Airways flies daily on regular schedules to and from Sioux Lookout. The flight lasts approximately 45 minutes to an hour.
- North Star also flies to Cat Lake from Thunder Bay. The flight lasts approximately 45 minutes to an hour.

Cat Lake is a dry community. No drugs or alcohol are allowed in the community. All luggage is searched upon arrival in the First Nation.

Cat Lake Directory

Band Office
807-347-2100

Cat Lake Airport
807-347-2066

Marie Stewart
Education Director
807-347-2491 or
807-738-1882 (cell)

Ruby Keesickquayash
Principal
Lawrence Wesley Education Centre
807-347-2491

Nursing Station
807-347-2110

Nishnawbe-Aski Police
807-347-2099

Youth Healing Centre
807-347-2400

Theresa Oombash
Economic Development Officer
204-891-6470

Cat Lake First Nation
PO Box 81
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