

2018 - 2019

WELCOME TO

# Keewaywin First Nation



**TEACH  
FOR  
CANADA**

# Aaniin





# Keewaywin First Nation

Dear Teachers,

We welcome both of you to our community Keewaywin First Nation. I realize with every new adventure or change there is an emotion that can make one wonder of the uncertain realities one could conceivably face. Not to worry! I can assure you I will do my best to make your stay as pleasant and enjoyable as I can.

However, your experiences in Keewaywin will greatly depend on how you choose to get involved. It is your choice whether to stay in your teacherage or come out to participate in events and activities. If you choose to get involved you will get to understand the people, share their life experiences, which will make the adjustment to your new life much easier.

During your time in Keewaywin I will expect each of you to reinforce a positive learning experience as well as establishing a community relationship. You will have a unique opportunity that most do not have and that is the chance to learn and share in our Oji-Cree culture and language. Over the next couple of years, I hope it will be a positive experience where you can share your experiences and understand the realities we face.

Furthermore, our community and school have pretty much accepted technology as a form of communication and an educational tool for our youth. I hope both of you can offer our students the opportunity to positively apply technology in an environment which will produce excitement in being at school. Engage with them and their interest and you will all grow together.

Don't forget to laugh, have fun, and stay warm in winter! We hope your time in Keewaywin will be very memorable.

Sincerely,

**David Thompson**  
Director of Education

# Community



## A Brief History

- **1985** Keewaywin gains band status.
- **Summer 1986** People start moving to the current site where Keewaywin stands, by Niska Lake. Initially there are only a few families.
- **1987 to the early 1990s** A lot of construction happens and Keewaywin is built up very rapidly. Many homes and the school are built.
- **Early 1990s** Keewaywin gets its first grocery store, a Northern Store.





# The Land

Keewaywin means “going home” or “going back”.

Keewaywin is located on the southern shore of Sandy Lake, approximately 225 km northeast of Red Lake and 580 km northwest of Thunder Bay.

A seasonal winter road connects Keewaywin to Pickle Lake and the provincial all-season road system.

Residents hunt moose. In the spring and the fall, they hunt birds such as geese, snow geese and ducks. Residents also fish pickerel, pike, and white fish. There are other species but those are the main ones that are fished.

## Keewaywin Community Map



# Keewaywin First Nation School



## Welcome!

### School Population

89

### Education Director

David Thompson

### Grades

Junior Kindergarten  
to Grade 8

### What is the school most proud of...

Our community is advanced in its use of technology. We were one of the first schools to have the internet, we even had it before we had phones. As a school, we prioritise being at the forefront of technology.

The school accommodates special needs, and caters to children with learning disabilities while aiming to increase overlap with regular programs.

Numerous community members are teaching certified, allowing for the majority of teachers to be selected from a local pool.



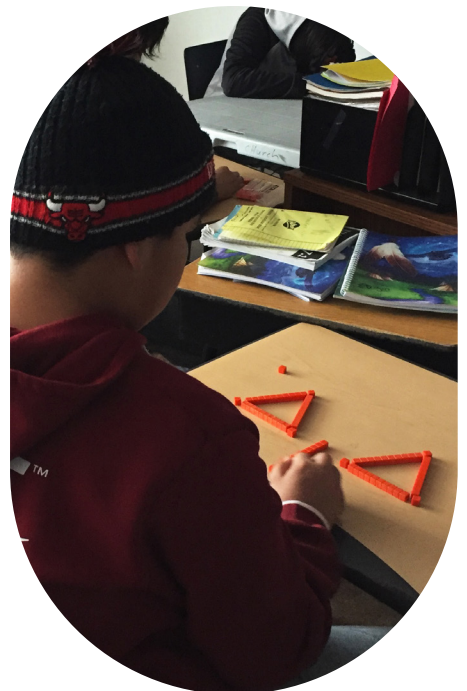




# A Day in the Life of a Teacher

Teachers are expected to be at school no later than 8:30.

The day starts with the Morning Prayer. Morning classes run from 9 am to 12 pm. Everybody goes home for lunch. Students and teachers return to school and classes start again at 1 pm. Classes run until 3:30 pm, though some days classes end at 4 pm to make up for the times when classes are canceled for other activities. Teachers are expected to stay at school until about 5pm.







## Facilities

The school is a part of Cisco's "Connected North" program and is extremely well-equipped, featuring SMART Boards in every classroom, and Chromebooks for students. There is also a library with extensive resources. The school is home to a gym which is sometimes used for community events, alongside a multi-purpose room, and a computer room. The school also has an in-house counsellor. There is a Kindergarten park available for the younger children and a larger playground for the older students. There is a school truck that teachers can use.

## Classes

Lesson plans are created in a manner which combines the curriculum with outdoor learning. Students are rarely given homework.

If teachers want to do traditional activities with their students, they should ask the principal. Someone from the community can come to teach the students. Traditional activities can include beading, filleting fish, and others.





## School Events

- There is a small get-together with the students at the beginning of the school year.
- Students participate in Christmas and end-of-year concerts.
- The school hockey team participates in an annual Bantam hockey tournament in Dryden in February and the Northern Bands Tournament during March Break.
- Christmas and Thanksgiving dinners are organised for the staff.
- There are potlucks at the school at school orientation and at the end of the school year.
- The grade 7/8 teacher does fundraising for the end of year class trip (usually to Toronto).

## Extracurricular activities

Extracurricular activities include hockey, volleyball, floor hockey, and skating.

### What educational activities would you like teachers to plan for students?

Baseball, art club, music classes, sewing club. It would be great if teachers could encourage students to teach students various ways of expressing themselves through art.



⌂  
School  
teepee





## Teacherages

Teacherages are very affordable, with rent costing \$300-350 for 1 bedroom. Appliances are already in the teacherages. There are no TVs.

The school provides the modem for the internet in teacherages. Cellphone service is available through Tbaytel.

Teachers are allowed to have pets. Some teachers even adopt local pets.

In Keewaywin most of the buildings are in the centre, so everything is within walking distance.

The community recently got a new power generator but teachers should bring a flashlight as a precautionary measure.



View from  
the teacherage







## Life in the Community



### Regular Activities

Keewaywin organizes a plethora of events including gospel nights, craft nights, fishing derbies, snowmobiling, ice fishing, and youth outings on the land.

### Annual Events

The last week of September is harvesting week: families spend time going out hunting for traditional foods. This includes moose hunting.

Treaty Day – June 8th – is celebrated with a variety of games and activities with prizes for children and adults. Community members also set-up tables to sell homemade food like taco bags, cheesecake, cinnamon rolls, and bannock-dogs.

A Memorial Feast is held every year to remember loved ones who have passed.

### Traditions and Customs

Many community members make traditional crafts in their homes. Ask a community member if you would like to be taken to meet them. Sometimes a family will invite teachers to their camp. Community members still hunt and fish. There is the opportunity to learn how to fillet a fish or skin an animal; this is open to teachers and they are welcome to bring home the traditional food they prepare.

Keewaywin is a Christian community, meaning that sweat lodges, pow wows, or drumming are not

performed. Teachers should abstain from creating lessons that are spiritual or religious based.

It is a dry reserve, and all luggage is checked at the airport for alcohol or illegal substances.

There is an outdoor ice rink, where people skate or play hockey. The rink needs to be cleared when it snows.



# Around the Community



①

**Residential Street in Keewaywin**

②

**Outside homes**



③

**Treaty Day activities**

④

**Airport Keewaywin**



⑤

**Bannock and bannock dogs**

⑥

**Post Office**

⑦

**Cooking bannock over a wood fire**

⑧

**Ice fishing**

⑨

**Keewaytinook Internet High School (KiHS) portable**









# Get to Know Keewaywin Community Members

## MEET LAURA ANISHINABIE, Teacher

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### What do you like most about your community?

I like being close to my family. Most of the community members are related, so that is why I stay, because of my family. I also like that Keewaywin is small. In the community, you can feel the peace of the land. There is a feeling of calmness here.

### What do you like to do in the community when you have a day off?

I like to take time for myself, for example take the time to go for a walk. I like to walk to the lake, or sometimes I drive on my own to get away. If I have time, I like to go fishing. I enjoy relaxing on the lake.

### How would you describe your community?

Keewaywin is small and quiet. People here are generally friendly and welcoming. When there are issues in the community everyone comes together to support each other and to help.



## MEET HARRIET THOMPSON, Kindergarten teacher and acting principal

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### What do you like most about your community?

In the winter you can go snowmobiling and ice fishing. You can drive out in a vehicle if the ice is plowed or you can go out in a skidoo. You can catch pickerel or jackfish. You can catch some very big fish! While you are fishing, you can enjoy warm tea or coffee.

### What do you like to do when you have some spare time?

I like to go for a boat ride in the summer, where I can be out on the land. In the winter, I like to go ice fishing. Teachers and other people visiting the community (e.g. construction workers) are welcome to participate in the ice fishing derby. I also like to pop in to visit students and see how they're doing.

### How would you describe Keewaywin?

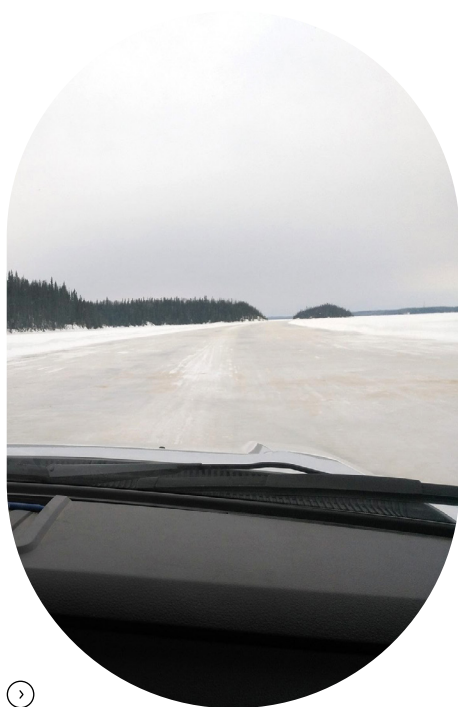
People are here are friendly. To feel like you are a part of the community, you should join events and help out. Teachers should feel comfortable to ask and then show up when there is an event.







## Getting to and from Keewaywin



Ice roads  
to and from Keewaywin

### By plane

- Wasaya flies to and from Keewaywin every day, but it is a longer flight (2-3 hours) as it makes many stops on the way.
- Northway flies to and from Keewaywin every day except Saturday from Winnipeg. It is a direct flight so it only takes 1-1.5 hours. Northway will pick-up passengers from their hotel or wherever they are. It is an early flight! It leaves at 6am. For teachers or visitors coming from Toronto, it might be faster to fly through Winnipeg, as they will be able to take this direct flight.

### By road

During winter, Keewaywin is connected to several other First Nations by ice roads, including Deer Lake, Sandy Lake, and North Spirit Lake.

### Businesses Serving the Community

- There is an E-centre open to community members which provides computers connected to the internet.
- Kerry's Coffee House offers specialty flavored coffees.
- Three convenience stores and one Northern Store operate in the community.
- The Keewaywin Motel has 8 rooms with a shared kitchen, bathrooms and Wi-Fi.
- Keewaywin also owns and operates a restaurant and local internet and cell phone services for residents and businesses.
- Teachers can order groceries through Harris Meats and Groceries in Winnipeg. Weather allowing, orders are delivered every day via Northway airlines. Shipping is included in the price of items.

### What's going on in Keewaywin?

- Facebook: There is a page for the school and the community, which are the best place to learn about events and news in Keewaywin. Furthermore, many youth sell baking and crafts through a buy and sell Facebook group
- The local TV and radio stations are used daily to share community news.

# Quick Facts

**Community Name**  
Keewaywin First Nation

**Tribal Council**  
Keewaytinook Okimakanak Council

**Provincial Territorial Organization (PTO)**  
Nishnawbe-Aski Nation



Population On-Reserve

**547**



Language Spoken

**Oji-Cree**



Treaty

**Treaty 5**  
(located in Treaty 9)



Average Yearly Temperature

**-22.8°C**  
January

**17.6°C**  
July



Winter Road Open Dates

**Jan - Mar**



## Keewaywin Directory

**Band Office**

771-1210

**Keewaywin School**

771-1125

**KeewayInn Motel**

771-1022

**Raymond (Motel Owner)**

771-1628

216-3050

**Northern Store**

771-1124

**Nursing Station**

771-1407

**Police Station**

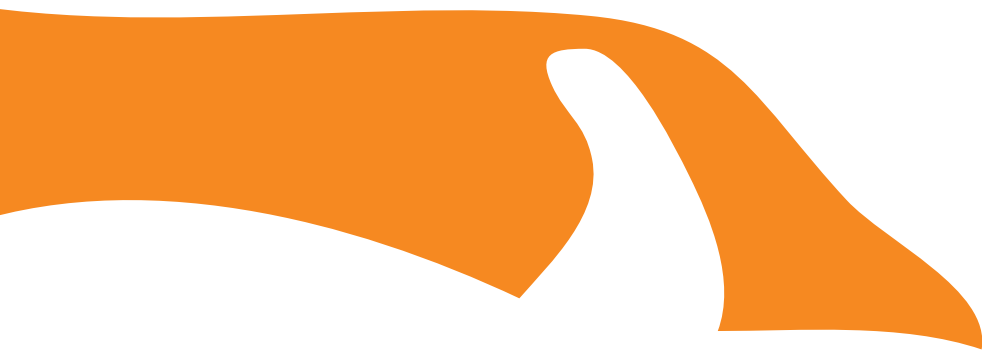
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