

WELCOME TO

# North Spirit Lake First Nation



**TEACH  
FOR  
CANADA**

# Wachiyeh



# North Spirit Lake First Nation

Dear Teachers,

North Spirit Lake warmly welcomes you! We are happy that you have accepted this opportunity to live and teach in our community. The year ahead will be filled with new experiences, learning, and challenges. No doubt it will be a year you will never forget.

Students and your new colleagues are looking forward to meeting you. I encourage you to really get to know them both inside and outside the school. As a teacher, you will serve as an example to our children. With this responsibility we trust that you approach all that you do with an open mind and a caring heart, and treat this responsibility seriously by dedicating yourself to students in the classroom and through an active involvement in extracurricular activities. They will notice and appreciate the time and energy you dedicate to them.

We are lucky to have a beautiful new school where you will be working. It is equipped with the latest technology and designed to reflect the local culture and environment. Over the course of the school year, take the time to explore the building and appreciate it from different angles.

As you know, we are a fly-in community. In the winter, we are connected to Sandy Lake and Deer Lake through winter roads. Historically and culturally we are also connected to them, as each of these communities can trace its roots back to Deer Lake. I encourage you to discover this rich history by getting to know the modern practices that are connected to this cultural history.

You will find that the people of North Spirit Lake are warm and friendly. Get to know them by taking an active role in the community events that take place throughout the year. No special invitation is required to these activities, you are always welcome! We look forward to your service and our time together in the year to come!

Sincerely,

**Adrian Lawrence**  
Band Administrator



# Community



## Welcome!

North Spirit Lake is a relatively small picturesque community with a population of roughly 300 people nestled on the shores of North Spirit Lake.

Traditionally it is known as Memekweso Sakahekan or Cliff Dweller Lake. North Spirit Lake was historically established as a gathering place for people in the surrounding area, which is a testament to the nomadic lifestyle people once lived.

Historically the inhabitants used the surrounding land to trap, hunt, and fish to provide the necessities of life.

As time moved on, people in the area built connections to the fur trade and later with the Government of Canada. It is these connections that led the people of the area to share the land and its resources with the people of Canada as recognized formally in Numbered Treaty 5.



# North Spirit Lake Community Map





# Victoria Linklater Memorial School



## **School Population**

70-80

## **Grades**

Kindergarten to Grade 8  
KiHS

## **Band Administrator**

Adrian Lawrence

## **Welcome!**

Victoria Linklater Memorial School is home to  
Keewaytinook Internet High School Classroom.

### **What is your school most proud of?**

Cultural activities

### **What activities would you like teachers to plan for kids?**

- Artistic activities
- Sports





# A Day in the Life of a Teacher

The day typically starts with school buses arriving at 8:30 AM, and ends at 4:30 PM.

Students are offered a full breakfast before classes start at 9:00 AM through our school nutrition program. Students have class until 12:00 PM and are bussed home for a break. Classes resume at 1:05 PM, and last until 3:30 PM. The longer school days are to accommodate a condensed school year which ends before Aboriginal Day (21st) in June.

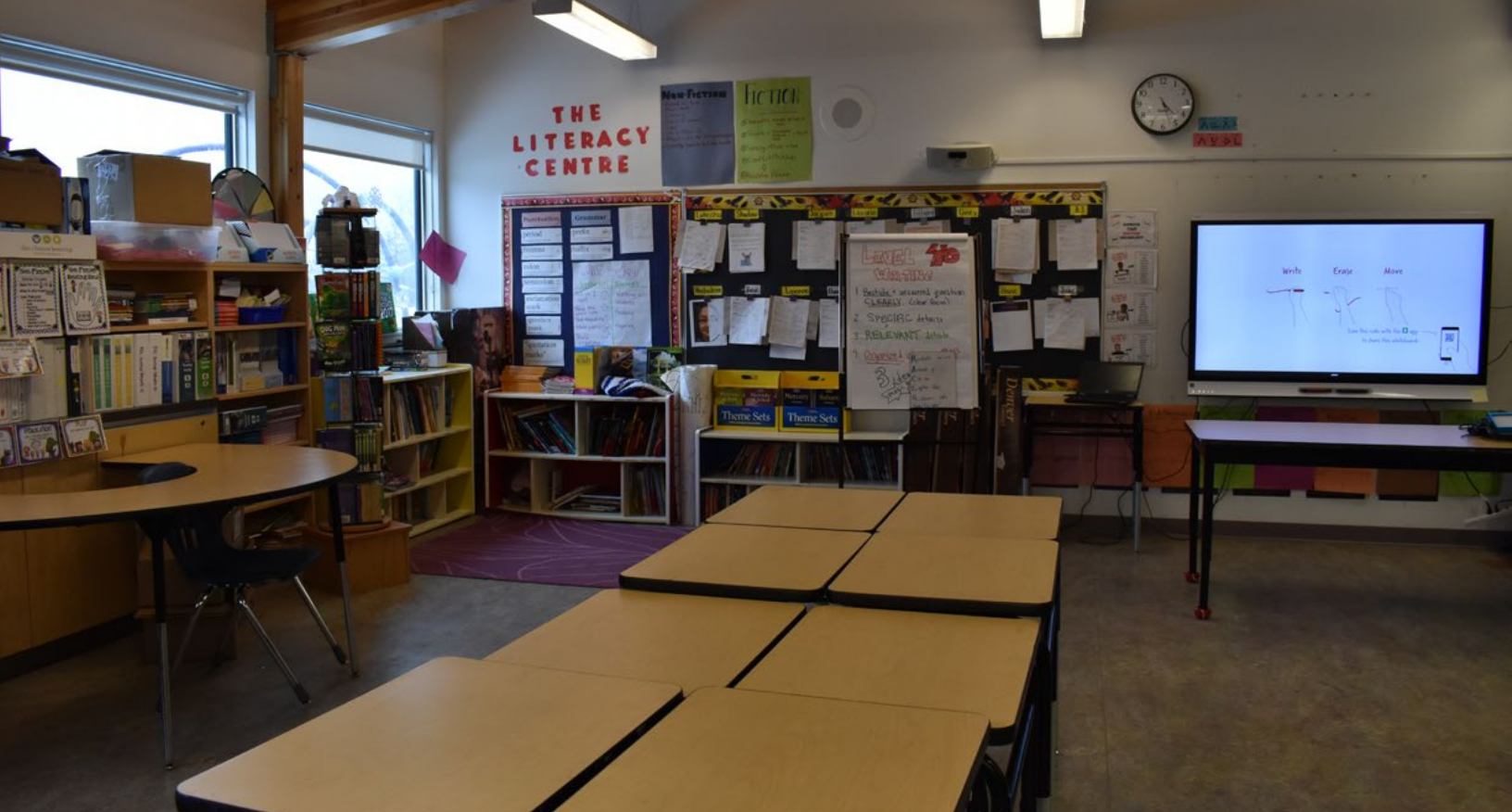
Although Teachers are expected to plan and lead instruction using the Ontario curriculum and follow a standard daily schedule, we aspire to offer our teachers a lot of flexibility designing classes and timetables that best fit the students they serve. For example, you will maybe notice that you won't hear a recess bell during the day. This may seem out of the ordinary, but teachers are asked to find the time throughout the day where breaks will be best suited. This flexibility supports our teachers to work collaboratively with their students and ensures that their needs are met in a holistic way.

## Additional Responsibilities

Teachers are expected to lead one extracurricular activity.







## Facilities and Services

North Spirit Lake is proud of the new facilities that house the Victoria Linklater Memorial School, which opened in September 2011.



The school is fibre-optically connected and boasts many modern amenities including SMART Boards and 1 to 1 Chromebook laptops for students in grades 4 to 8. There are also five classrooms and a gymnasium. The hallways have full length tack-able walls to serve as large easel for the students' artwork. The design reflects a connection to global knowledge as well as the beauty of the boreal forest. The architects were inspired by the tales of Maymayquayshwak, a half-man half-fish, which according to local legends, has been seen along the cliffs of North Spirit Lake. By using these cliffs as inspiration for the school, the facility is connected to its environment, giving it meaning for students, teachers, and community members.

The building won the WoodWORKS Northern Ontario Excellence Award in architecture in 2014. With such a beautiful building we look for any opportunity we can to hold or host community events. Parents are always welcome into our facility, to come and have a tea or coffee or to visit their child's teacher; we also host two large feasts every school year, one at Christmas and one at the end of the school year, for our graduation and awards ceremony.

Some students attend the Keewatinook Internet High School (KiHS), where students learn in community classrooms and by working on a variety of courses using an online platform. KiHS provides youth with the opportunity to stay in their community to complete their education.

At our school, we are proud to have a variety of land-based learning equipment available—we just need the staff!





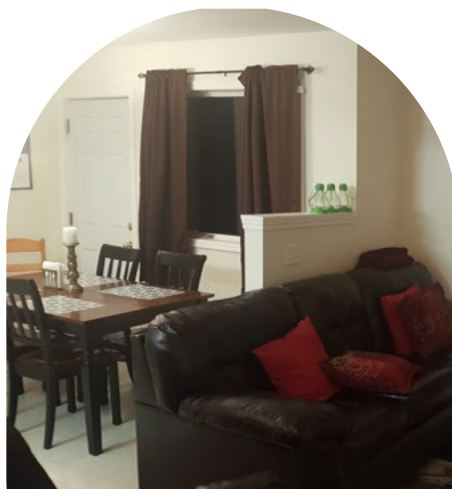
# Teacherages

The teacherages in North Spirit Lake are great.

They are located a 5 minute walk from the school. North Spirit Lake's teacherages are in two duplex houses nearby the school. Each duplex has four separate units. Houses have been newly furnished with all necessary furniture, including beds, modern appliances, smart TVs and wifi.

Pets are allowed in the teacherages as long as they are well-trained and do not damage the furniture.

K-Net and TBayTel have service in the community.





# Life in the Community



## Regular activities

The community offers recreational, traditional, and social activities such as floor hockey, baseball, and volleyball, as well as traditional teachings in arts and crafts. North Spirit Lake has many artists who paint and make handicrafts.

## Annual Events

Annual and seasonal feasts are organised, some to celebrate special holidays. In the fall, community members take part in the Moose Hunt, in the spring there is a fishing derby.

## Traditions and Customs

North Spirit Lake is a relatively modern community. Although

connected to our modern lifestyle people are still very much in tune with the traditional ways. Hunting and fishing are two of the main activities that connect people to their past. Every year the school closes to formal instruction in September and in May so that families can have some time outside of school for traditional pursuits.



# Get to Know North Spirit Lake Community Members

## MEET RACHEL OMBASH, Native language teacher

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### What do you like most about North Spirit Lake?

The quiet. It's not like the city where there are a lot of cars and noise. Everybody knows each other here.

### How would you describe North Spirit Lake?

There's a lot of stuff to do here. There are community gatherings: feasts cook-outs, celebrations for Treaty Days and Canada Day. In winter there is carnival, cookouts with Elders. Outsiders don't need to be invited to these events to attend, you are welcome, you can just show up. During moose season there is the opportunity to try moose, including different parts of the moose like the tongue.



## MEET CHARLOTTE RAE, Former Full-time Elder

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I went to Lakehead and became a certified teacher. I graduated in 1996. I was a teacher at the school for many years. I used to teach at the old school, that was located toward the band office. I am the former full-time Elder at the school. I really enjoyed my time working here, helping teach native language. I also taught traditional crafts, for example beading.

### How do you spend your free time?

I like to go fishing in the summer, ice fishing in winter. North Spirit Lake is a quiet place but you see people walking around.

### What would you like teachers to know about North Spirit Lake?

Teachers who come here really like the students. I have never heard a teacher say they don't like North Spirit Lake or the people. It is a very welcoming place. Teachers should participate in community events, like a fish fry, to get to know the people. Parents are happy to see teachers at events. Teachers who come out enjoy themselves.

Teachers coming here should know that there are no roads into the community. There is no bank, no clothing store. You can get medication through the nursing station.







# Around the Community



①

**North Spirit Lake Airport**

②

**Vegetables at the store**



③

**Raft Race**

④

**Baseball**



⑤

**Residential street in North Spirit Lake**

⑥

**NAPS Police Service**

⑦

**Mamaskatch Meejims Store**

⑧

**Inside of Church**

⑨

**Band Office**







# Quick Facts

## Community Name

North Spirit Lake First Nation

## Tribal Council

Keewaytinook Okimakanak/Northern Chiefs

## Provincial Territorial Organization (PTO)

Nishnawbe Aski Nation



## Population On-Reserve

**300+**



## Language Spoken

**Oji-Cree  
and English**



## Treaty

**Treaty 5**

(although within the  
Territory of Treaty 9)



## Average Yearly Temperature

**-23°C**

January

**25°C**

July



## Access

**Year-round**



**Jan - Mar**





## Getting to and from North Spirit Lake

### Flights

Perimeter, North Star, Bearskin, Northway, and Wasaya Airlines service North Spirit Lake. Depending on the airline and flight schedules, flights travel between North Spirit Lake and Red Lake, Sioux Lookout, Thunder Bay, and Winnipeg. Bearskin flies to Sioux Lookout.

### Winter Roads

North Spirit Lake is connected to Deer Lake, Sandy Lake, Poplar Hill, and Keewaywin by road in winter. The municipality of Red Lake (Balmertown) is 100 kilometers away.

## North Spirit Lake Directory

### School

(807) 776-0001

### Band Office

(807) 776-0021

### Clinic

(807) 776-0019 or 776-0065

### Radio Station

(807) 776-0114

### KiHS

1-807-387-3740, ext. 1391

### Nishnawbe-Aski Police

(807) 776-0025

### Da Store

776-0224

### Mamaskatch Store

776-0228

### Airlines

#### Wasaya (Red Lake, Sioux Lookout, Thunder Bay)

In Community: (807) 776-0004

Reservations: 1-877-492-7292

#### Northway (Winnipeg)

Reservations: 1-888-667-8492

#### North Star Air

1-844-633-6294

#### Bearskin

1-800-465-2327

#### Perimeter Aviation

1-800-665-8986



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