

Teach for Canada looks to expand into Manitoba First Nations

Program helps prepare teachers to work, live in isolated communities

By Lindsey Enns

Liz Halina says helping prepare teachers for the challenges they may face while teaching in isolated northern First Nations communities is her way of giving back.

"You see students that are happy to be in the classroom and that are smiling and are enjoying learning," Halina said during a telephone interview from her home in Thunder Bay, Ont. "You see teachers that are connecting with community members to bring language and land-based learning and culture into the classroom ... it makes me happy that we're on the right path to developing reconciliation in Canada."

After spending two years as a police officer in northern Manitoba, Halina began her teaching career 17 years ago in a remote fly-in community in the Northwest Territories on the shores of Great Bear Lake.

Halina, who is a member of Sagkeeng First Nation and grew up in Selkirk, is currently the director of teacher development with Teach for Canada, a non-



profit organization which aims to help fill the education gap between First Nations and non-First Nations communities by helping recruit, prepare, and support teachers interested in teaching in remote First Nations.

Halina said they are in the "very early stages" of expanding into First Nations in Manitoba with hopes of offering programming to interested teachers in the fall of 2019.

"Several communities from Manitoba have reached out to us to start to explore a potential working relationships together so we're just in the beginning stages of looking at potentially expanding into Manitoba from North-

western Ontario," Halina said. "We want to help communities find really good teachers and we want those teachers to stay and have great working relationships with students, parents, the leadership in communities and community members as a whole."

Teach for Canada's biggest group of teachers to date



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Former Selkirk resident and Teach for Canada's director of teacher development Liz Halina, pictured left, says they are in the early stages of expanding into Manitoba. The non-profit organization helps recruit, prepare and support teachers interested in teaching in remote First Nations.

started an intensive three-week program on July 16 to prepare for teaching in northern Ontario First Nations this September.

The group of 94 teachers from across Canada and countries as diverse as Siberia, Jamaica, the Philippines, and Nigeria, ranging in age from 22 to 73, and with an average of seven years of experience, will teach in 18 fly-in and drive-in First Nations communities in 2018-19.

During the three-week program these teachers participate in a program focused on First Nations histories, cultures, languages, culturally-responsive pedagogies, and outdoor education, as well as strategies for success in the North.

Halina said some of the challenges these teachers will face include isolation, being far away from family and friends, not having Internet access, the high price of food in the fly-in communities as well as culture shock.

"You add all of those things together and it can become quite overwhelming," she said.

But that's where Teach for Canada comes in. Halina said their program is specifically designed to help prepare teachers from all kinds of backgrounds to succeed in these communities.

"We want our teachers to understand First Nations history, First Nations culture," she said.

Halina admits recruiting teachers has been a challenge.

"It is a little bit more challenging, however, we're still able to find really good, phenomenal teachers to go North," she said.

For more information about Teach for Canada, teachforcanada.ca.



BROKENHEAD Ojibway Nation
BAASKAANDIJEVIZIBING

14th Annual

Traditional

Pow Wow

August 10, 11, 12, 2018

Brokenhead Ojibway Nation

Under the Big Top

GRAND ENTRY
Friday - 7pm
Saturday - 1 & 7pm
Sunday - 1pm

SPECIALS DAILY

HOT DRUM SELECTED DAILY

Committee Not Responsible for Theft, Injury, and/or Accidents, short funded Travellers or Divorces.
THIS IS AN ALCOHOL & DRUG FREE EVENT

Day money will be paid to registered dancers and drums only, Adults, Jrs. Teens & Tiny Tots.
~ Please Register Daily ~

Vendors must provide their own power supply and table.
No Shower Facilities Available

For more information - Pow Wow -
Ralph Kent & Glenda Smith
204-766-2652

Vendors call 204-766-2494 or
email: eventsbon261@gmail.com
or web: brokenheadojibwaynation.net

Enjoy your visit to our community

Brokenhead Ojibway Nation Chief & Council would like to say "Meegwetch"



D.O.G Days of Summer



Selkirk Port Market

Every Wednesday in August

Market & Vendors: 11:00-2:00
Entertainment: 11:30-1:30

Bring a bagged lunch or visit a vendor and enjoy the D.O.G Days of Summer!

Presented by:





Clandeboyne Amalgamated United Church



Pickerel FISH FRY

Friday, August 10
5 - 7 pm

Clandeboyne Hall

Tickets:
Adults: \$20
Children 12-6: \$5
Under 6: Free

For Tickets call: 204-738-4355 or 204-738-4377

All proceeds to Clandeboyne United Church