

WELCOME TO

Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation



**TEACH
FOR
CANADA**



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Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation

Dear Teachers,

The Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation welcomes you! We are located, north of 55, at Nelson House, Manitoba. We are accessible by highway 391 just northwest of Thompson, Manitoba, the nearest urban centre. There are over 6,000 members on the Band list and approximately half live on the reserve. There are many entities on our First Nation.

Besides the Nisichawayasihk Culture and Education Authority (NNCEA), on the First Nation, we have a Governance Building, a local band-operated store, gas station, the Nelson House Forest Industries, the Nelson House Medicine Lodge, a women's shelter, an RCMP detachment, an arena, a new Norman Linklater Memorial Multiplex, a nursing station with ambulance service, a VLT lounge, a Family and Community Wellness Centre, a personal care home, and various areas of settlement (10) with housing for residents. The NNCEA is one of the largest entities, which oversees the First Nation education system in the community.

Our Indigenous education system existed before Europeans arrived and before the signing of Treaties. With the Treaties (1908) came the western education system. However, in 1981, local control of education was regained in Nelson House. Today, we are working toward re-indigenizing the education system with our values and beliefs while still recognizing the western knowledge systems. Since 1981, our educational system has progressed and many milestones have been accomplished. Our unique needs and attention to language and culture ensures that education is not just a duplication of the provincial school systems. These accomplishments have set in motion a positive direction and will allow for the necessary changes in the future.

Right now, the school system has an array of facilities: a central office which is located at the Alice Moore Education Centre (AMEC), the elementary school or Otayitiskiwin Kiskinwahamakikamik (OK), the high school or Nisichawayasihk Noyo Ohtinwak Collegiate (NNOC), 42 teacherages (10-one bedroom units, 19-two bedroom units, 13-three bedroom units) and garages for the buses (10) and storage. Since 1981, expansion and progress is evident and will continue on.

A new high school for grades 7-12 opened in April 2022. A new health centre and water treatment plant are under construction as well.

L. Gail Gossfeld-McDonald
Director of Education
Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation

Community

We are the Nisichawayasi Nehethowuk, the people whose ancestors lived near where the three rivers meet and who speak Nehetho, the language of the four winds.

A Brief History

10,000 years ago	Early presence of the NCN ancestors: the People of NCN have lived in Northern Manitoba from time immemorial.
7,500 years ago	After the ice age, NCN ancestors inhabit the region near Nelson House
1600s	Fur trade era: Foreign European trade begins around NCN
1800s	Hudson Bay Trading Post established in Nelson House
1875	Treaty 5 was signed
1908	Signs Adhesion to Treaty 5 and Pierre Moose is first elected Chief
1920s	Regular air flights come to Nelson House
1971	NCN gets hydroelectric power
1981	Nelson House Education Authority is established
1989	Launch of NCN Economic Development Corporation, Medicine Lodge Treatment Centre opens, and NCN mandates CFS Agency
1990s	1990s - NCN negotiates the Wuskwatim Project Development Agreement
2001	Family and Community Wellness Centre is established
2006	NCN signs the PDS, WIO, AOL Taskinigahp Trust, CIP Process, Tripartite Agreement, RCMP Services commence.
2012	Wuskwatim comes online. NCN local store opens. NCN Open Family Foods Store in Thompson, Manitoba opens.



The Land

Nisichawayasi people have been connected to the land and waters where Burntwood, Footprint, and Rat Rivers converge for over ten thousand years. For millennia, we have relied on the waterways for transportation, and what is now called Nelson House, was a strategic location within our traditional territory.

Our ancestors were nomadic people who lived far beyond the boundaries of the current reserve. They had an intimate knowledge of our traditional territory which extends over a 23,000-square-kilometre region. These beautiful, rich traditional lands in Canada’s pre-Cambrian Shield and northern boreal forest encompass tracts of black and white spruce interspersed with many rivers, streams, and lakes.

Kehchi Manitou (the Great Spirit), through *Kehchi Othasowewin* (the Great Law) granted us, as the guardians of N’tuskenan (our sacred land) the responsibility to care for, and the right to use and benefit from its resources.

Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation Community Map





Schools

Otayitiskiwin Kiskinwahamakikamik & Nisichawayasihk Nayo Ohtinwak Collegiate

School Populations

OK: 476

NNOC: 385

Director of Education

L. Gail Gossfeld-McDonald

Assistant Director of Education

Nicholas Campbell

Nisichawayasihk Nayo Ohtinwak Collegiate Principal

Samantha Pike-Rupert

Vice Principal

Natalie Tays

Otayitiskiwin Kiskinwahamakikamik Principal

Rychard Paszkowski

Vice Principal

Coreena Masson

Resource Program Administrator

Tammy Long

Welcome!

The Alice Moore Education Centre (AMEC) is home to some key employees of the NNCEA. The AMEC contains a Boardroom, offices for the Director of Education, Assistant Director of Education, Human Resources, ICT and the Nehetho Language and Culture Unit.

NCN has two schools: an elementary school called OK (or Footprint House of Learning / Teaching), and NNOC (or Four Directions Collegiate), our new high school opened in April 2022.

Otayitiskiwin Kiskinwahamakikamik (OK or Footprint House of Learning / Teaching) is the community's elementary school with Nursery to Grade 6. Enrollment is close to 500 students.

Nisichawayasihk Nayo Ohtinwak Collegiate (NNOC or Four Directions Collegiate) is a semester-based high school for grades 7-12 which includes a Mature Student Program (up to four credits per semester).

There are approximately 50 teachers for nursery to grade 12, along with 60 education assistants. There are counsellors on-site, an inclusive education resource team, and a full team of administrative and support staff. There is also a bus unit with approximately 8 bus drivers for student transportation. The NNCEA is governed by a Board of Trustees.



Otayitiskiwin Kiskinwahamakikamik & Nisichawayasihk Neyo Ohtinwak Collegiate

Grades

OK - Nursery - Grade 6

NNOC - Grade 7 - 12 (Mature student diploma program)

What are your schools most proud of?

Our history, language, culture, ancestors, community, our children, families, our accomplishments, our schools, our ways!

School Values, Mandate, Vision & Mission

"Soki othatamakiwin Mitho opikihowasowin Miskanow - Setting a strong path for our children"

The NNCEA School Board wants our children to be proud of who they are, where they come from, so they will know where they want to go. By the time our students graduate from our "more culturally appropriate" system, it is anticipated that they will know and be proud of their ancestry, know the Nehetho language and culture, and have a holistic educational experience so they succeed in life and live healthier lives and have pimatisiwin - mastering the ways of your language and culture of your ancestors to help you move forward.



Facilities

Otayitiskiwin Kiskinwahamakikamik is a three floor elementary school with approximately 30 classrooms. Room 101 is used for the breakfast and lunch program and as an Elders' space. The school features a full sized gym, library, staff room, computer lab, printshop, and dental office.

The new Nisichawayasihk Neyo Ohtinwak Collegiate is a state-of-the-art, new school, that is well equipped with updated technology including a Dadavan School Information System, computerized reports, and fibre-optic internet access.

Unique Classes Offered

- Elders in the School
- Life Skills
- Jack Moore Traditional Program (Granny/Grandpa)
- Culture Camp

High School Programs

- Cosmetology
- Industrial Arts
- Home Economics
- Music

A Day in the Life of a Teacher

School Hours

OK: 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM
NNOC: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Our schools function on a flex schedule where teachers work an extra 30 minutes each day. This extra half hour results in a total of 15 'flex days' throughout the school year. Flex days are marked in yellow on the school calendar and are taken off throughout the school year.

Teachers receive 240 minutes of prep time per cycle. There are numerous supports for students and staff in our system.

From Monday through Friday, Teachers provide rotating support with Bus Duty. They have the opportunity to volunteer for various school committees and engage in Professional Development throughout the school year.

Extracurriculars

- Volleyball
- Basketball
- Hockey
- Sewing
- Various enrichment activities



Special School Events

August

- Two day early orientation for new teachers with dinner in Thompson
- Orientation for all NNCEA staff (includes one day for a culture camp with a BBQ)

September

- Annual Terry Fox Run
- Nominal Roll Week events
- Orange Shirt Day
- Truth and Reconciliation Day

October

- Thanksgiving Day feast
- Door decorating
- Halloween

November

- Annual Remembrance Day service at OK
- School photos

December

- Door decorating
- Annual OK Christmas Concert
- Annual NNCEA Staff Christmas Dinner
- Christmas Break (two weeks)

January

- Happy New Year

February

- Louis Riel Day
- Bazaar fundraising continues

March

- Local Winter Festival
- Ice fishing for students sponsored by local RCMP
- Flex Day Week + Spring Break (two weeks)

April

- Easter
- Earth Day

May

- Mother's Day
- Annual clean up day with BBQ

June

- Father's Day
- Graduation for Kindergarten, Grade 12, MSDP, post-secondary students
- Year-end awards + staff BBQ

July

- Annual General Assembly (AGA) for NNCEA



Teacherages

Teacherages are close to the school and are self-contained with basic furnishings including a fridge, stove, washer, dryer, living room set, and table and chairs. The teacherages are well maintained and equipped with internet and security surveillance. Rent includes hydro, water, parking.

We have 42 teacherages, including 10-one bedroom units, 19-two bedroom units, and 13-three bedroom units.

Two domesticated pets are allowed. Pet owners have to pay an additional damage deposit fee due to the costs of cleaning up pet dander.





Life in the Community

Community Events and Activities

People go out on the land as they need to: some go fishing, some go hunting, some go trapping. We have two annual festivals, the winter one in March and the summer one in August. Various events are scheduled for children and adults at this time. Many come out to participate.

In the last few years, we've been having elaborate fireworks display on July 1 and 2, Jan. 1 for New Year's, which is enjoyable.

We have a hockey arena and a Junior Hockey team. The arena is open daily from 10am - 10pm.

Services in the Community

We have a local band-operated store and gas station, a medicine lodge, an RCMP detachment, a nursing station with ambulance service, a family and community wellness centre, and several areas with housing for residents. There is a Canada Post office at the local store. They are open from 10am - 5pm, Monday to Friday only.

Word of mouth and Facebook is how a lot of information is shared. There is also a local radio station here. Message boards can be posted in the high profile business areas.

Access

NCN does not have an airport. The nearest one is in Thompson, Manitoba. Flights to and from Winnipeg are very costly. If one wants to charter, they can make arrangements. NCN is a drive-in community. Further up the highway, there's Leaf Rapids, Black Sturgeon FN, Lynn Lake and South Indian Lake.

Around the Community



①

Beading in Grandma's cabin

②

Grandpa's cabin

③

Education Authority Office

④

Community ice rink

⑤

Footprints left by NCN's spiritual hero and brother Wesahkechahk*

⑥

Canoes for outdoor education

⑦

Gas station and convenience store*

⑧

Atoskiwin Training and Employment Centre (ATEC)

⑨

Aerial view over NCN*

*(Credit: NCNCree website)



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②



③



④



5



6



7



8



9

12

Quick Facts



Population On-Reserve

3000



Language Spoken

**Nehetho
(Rocky Cree)
and English**



Treaty

**Adhesion to
Treaty 5**



Average Yearly Temperature

-24.6°C 16.3°C

January

July



Access

Year-round



NCN Directory

NCN Mailing Address

NNCEA
PO Box 402,
Nelson House, Manitoba
R0B 1A0

NCN Chief Angela Levasseur
angela.levasseur@ncncree.com

NNCEA School Bd Chair W. Bunn
204-484-2341

**Alice Moore Education Centre
(AMEC)**
204-494-2095

NNCEA Education Director
gailm@nncea.ca
204-484-2095

NNCEA Asst. Education Director
nicc@nncea.ca
204-484-2095

OK Principal
rychardp@nncea.ca
204-484-2242

NNOC Principal
samanthap@nncea.ca
204-484-2602

Fire
204-484-2047

Ambulance
204-484-2911

Nursing Station
204-484-2031

RCMP
204-484-2288

Band Constables
204-307-0912

Radio Station
204-484-2065

NCN Store
204-484-2676

VLT Lounge
204-484-2322

Personal Care Home (PCH)
204-484-2350



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