



For immediate release

THREE FIRST NATIONS IN NORTHERN MANITOBA PARTNER WITH TEACH FOR CANADA TO RECRUIT, PREPARE, AND SUPPORT TEACHERS

New partnerships to help fill the education gap

THUNDER BAY, January 27, 2020 — God’s Lake Narrows First Nation, Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation, and Northlands Denesuline First Nation are the first in Manitoba to have partnered with the non-profit organization Teach For Canada. The organization recruits, prepares, and supports certified teachers in partnership with northern First Nations. The three Manitoba communities join 17 northern First Nations in Ontario that work with Teach For Canada to ensure they have committed teachers who are a good fit for the North in their schools.

Low teacher supply and high teacher turnover compound historical injustices and systemic inequities between First Nations and non-First Nations communities. Teach For Canada recruits teachers through a rigorous interview process that has been designed with First Nations to ensure teachers have the right motivations, aptitude, and fit to support student success.

Once selected, teachers attend an intensive summer program facilitated by Indigenous leaders and education experts that focuses on First Nations histories, cultures, languages, and culturally-responsive pedagogies. The program prepares teachers to meet the needs of students in their classrooms. They are also given personal and professional support throughout their two-year minimum commitment in a northern school.

It will help fill a gap in northern Manitoba that Gail Gossfeld-McDonald, Director of Education of the Nisichawayasi Nehetho Culture and Education Authority in Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation says the school is excited about. “We are confident that partnering with Teach For Canada will help us hire and retain teachers who have a keen desire, commitment, and passion to teach students,” she shares. “Teaching in northern First Nations schools will be an adjustment but it has its rewards. Every First Nation school and community is unique and needs educators who want to be there and who will excel. If the teacher succeeds, students succeed.”

Representatives from all 20 First Nations from Treaty 3, 5, 9, and 10 in Ontario and Manitoba have been invited to gather together on January 29th and 30th for Teach For Canada’s biannual Advisory Council meeting in Thunder Bay. Education leaders will provide guidance and direction to the organization on their recruitment, selection, and support programs for teachers, as they look towards their hiring needs for the 2020 school year.



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About Teach For Canada

Teach For Canada is a non-profit organization that works with northern First Nations to recruit, prepare, and support outstanding teachers. Too often, teachers arrive in remote and Indigenous communities without the preparation and support they need to succeed—and stay—in the classroom. The twin challenges of teacher supply and turnover compound historical injustice and systemic inequities to produce an education gap between First Nations and non-First Nations communities. Teach For Canada works with First Nations communities to begin to close that gap. For more information, visit www.teachforcanada.ca.

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