

WELCOME TO

Red Sucker Lake First Nation



TEACH
FOR
CANADA



wachiya



Red Sucker Lake First Nation

Dear educators,

Welcome to Mithkwamepin Thaakkahikan, meaning the “lake of red suckers”. We are excited to have you join our school, and make a difference in the lives of our children. On behalf of Red Sucker Lake First Nation, we look forward to spending time with you and getting to know you as you become an important part of our community.

Red Sucker Lake is a warm, welcoming, and accepting community that is filled with many kind people. Over the years, people have travelled from many different areas to spend time in Red Sucker Lake. Visitors often remark that they have had a wonderful time in our community.

Throughout the year, you will have many opportunities to get involved in our traditions by participating in events with those around you. Whether you meet new friends over a competitive game of bingo, on a family trapline, fishing, or at our Carnivals or other community events, we hope that you will join us to have fun while exploring the beauty of our home.

The people of Red Sucker Lake are always available to lend a helping hand to one another. When we welcome others into our lives, we like to make sure that they feel loved and well taken care of. In the words of Allen B. Harper, Former Pastor of our Full Gospel Church for 54 years, “We have something special here in Red Sucker Lake”, and we are eager to have you experience it for yourself. Although we may have ups and downs, our community gathers together to lift each other up and help heal those who need support.

I am excited to share with you that we have successfully advocated for a new school in our community. We will soon have a separate High School for Grades 7-12, and the current building will be renovated to become a new Elementary School! We hope that you will join us as we open the doors to new opportunities and welcome our students to deepen their learning on our land.

I wish you a smooth and enjoyable transition to living and working in Red Sucker Lake First Nation. We are here for you if you need anything along the way.

Sincerely,

Nick Harper
Education Director

Community



A Brief History

- **1909** Island Lake First Nation signed an adhesion to Treaty 5
- **1949** First permanent settlement at current community's location
- **1957** First school in community was a log cabin with a few tables and chairs ran by the missionaries
- **1969** Island Lake First Nation was split into 4 separate First Nations. Red Sucker Lake First Nation's first Chief was Angus Harper
- **1980** Red Sucker Lake Air Service was established in October with a Cessna 180
- **1994** September was the official opening of the current school
- **2020** Grand opening for the new Health Centre & Arena
- **2022** First Nations Bachelor of Teaching offered in community in association with Yellowquill University College



The Land

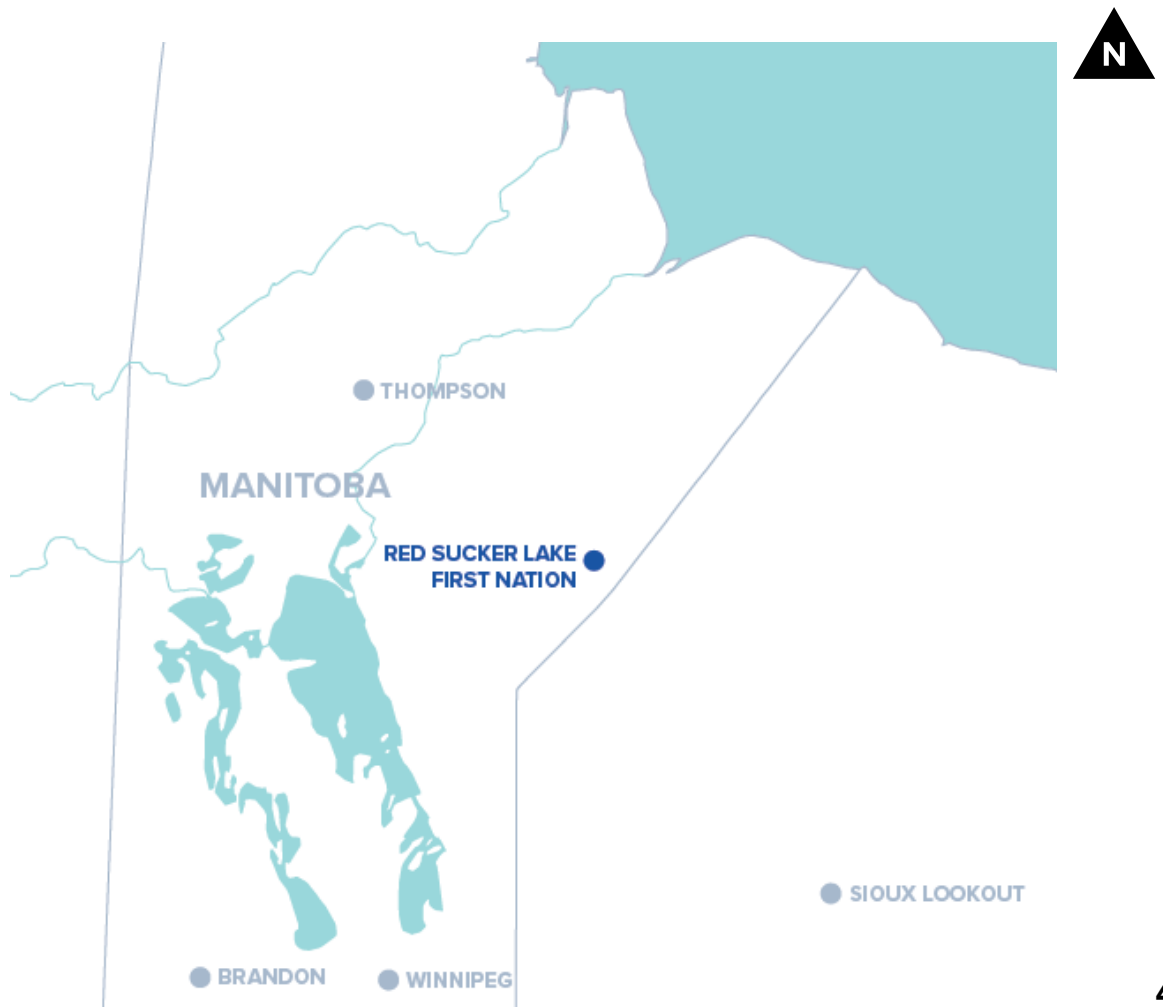


Red Sucker Lake First Nation is located on a peninsula of the northeast shore of Red Sucker Lake, near the Manitoba-Ontario border. The community is situated approximately 700 km northeast of Winnipeg, and 224 km southeast of Thompson, Manitoba. The Oji-Cree Nation has a registered population of 1,085, of which, 939 live on-reserve. The main reserve for Red Sucker Lake First Nation is Red Sucker Lake 1976. The First Nation also occupies seven other separate reserves located around Red Sucker Lake.

The First Nation is located in the Hayes River Upland - one of four ecoregions that make up Canada's Boreal Shield ecozone. Within this ecoregion, Red Sucker Lake is located within the Island Lake ecodistrict. The Island Lake ecodistrict is characterized by an uneven geography featuring a mixture of rock outcrops and coarse glacial till. The area features occasional peat bogs - some deep enough that permafrost is present. Vegetation typically consists of black spruce, jack pine, balsam bir, and occasionally trembling aspen and white spruce. Bogs and other wetlands feature more varied plant species.

The main languages spoken by the population are Oji-Cree and English. The traditional Oji-Cree name for Red Sucker Lake is Mithkwamepin Thaakkahikan, meaning the "lake of red suckers. This refers to the relative abundance of sucker species among the fish identified in the lake now known as Red Sucker Lake.

Red Sucker Lake Community Map



Red Sucker Lake School



Welcome!

School Population

360

Grades

Nursery to Grade 12

Education Director

Nick Harper

Principal

Wesley Harper

Vice-Principal

Eddy Harper

Secretary

Olive Monias

Mission Statement

Education must be the means by which each student may develop physically, mentally, and morally to healthy maturity so that he or she becomes a positive contributing member of Red Sucker Lake Band and the larger Canadian community.

To this end, the Education Authority requires that all people who attend the education of Red Sucker Lake exert their energies and capabilities toward this philosophy, and be fully involved in this process.

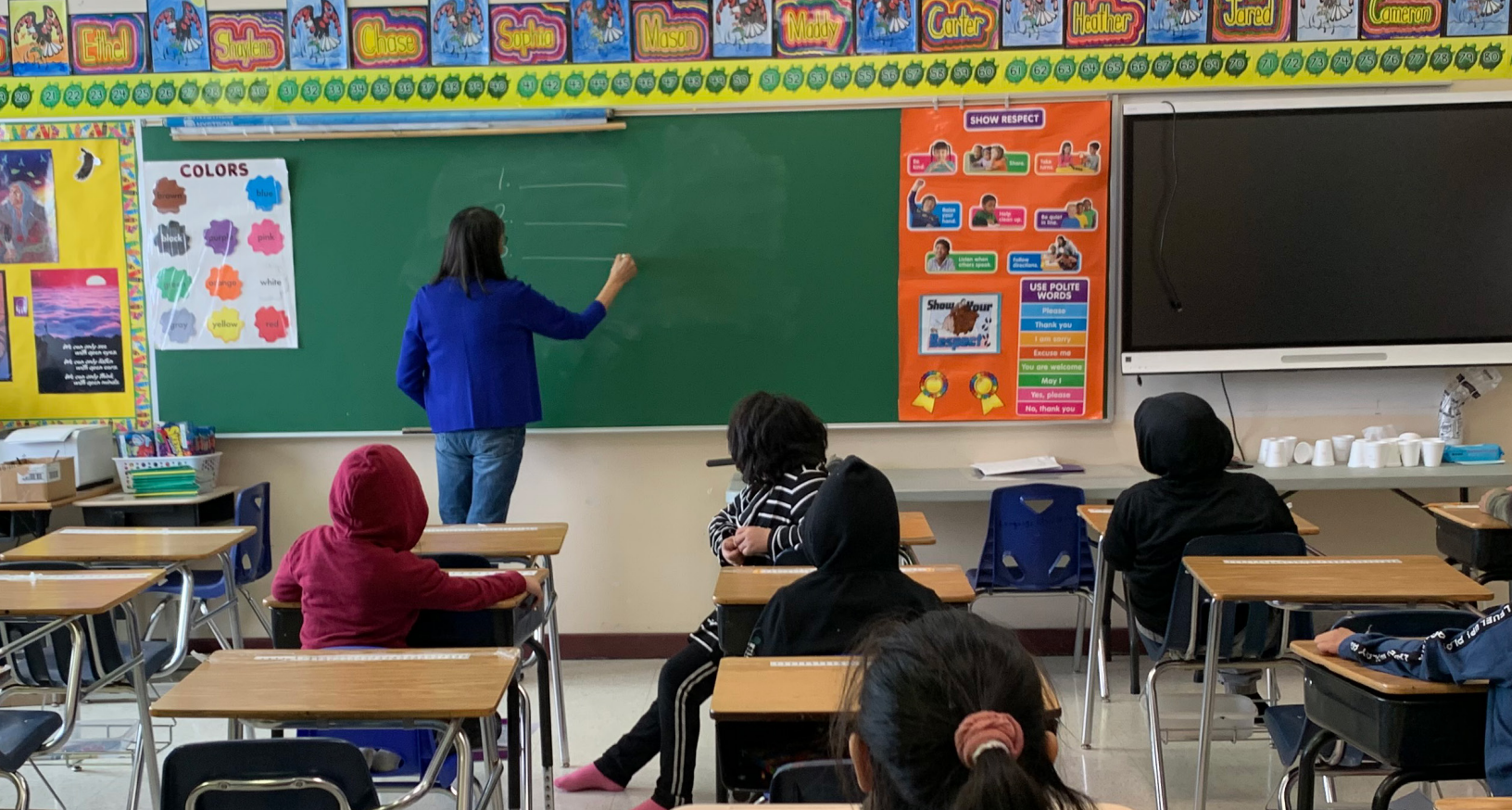
The Authority requires that its staff must be cognizant of the fact that its students are Indigenous students, and the educational endeavours of its staff must take the students' cultural heritage into account for their development. The Indigenous peoples' history, lifestyle, beliefs, and norms must be given positive reinforcement for each child's self-actualization. School must be a way to a better life for all involved.

Red Sucker Lake Education Authority

What is the school most proud of...

Our clean environment, and well behaved students. Our students are very respectful, and will do things that are asked of them.





The majority of children living in the community attend the Red Sucker Lake School, with the exception of a few high school students who attend Southeast Collegiate in Winnipeg.

Facilities

- 14 classrooms
- Gym, science room, computer lab, school kitchen
- School boat and vehicle that are for the use of teachers
- By 2025, we will have a new High School for Grades 7-12. The existing school will be renovated to become an Elementary School

Extracurricular Activities

- Breakfast Club - preparing breakfast for students
- Fundraising activities - Bazaar bingo, bake sales, lunch sales, student dance
- Student Council
- Evening Sports Nights

Special School Events

- Fall Cultural/ Hunting Week - in September, teachers are encouraged to join families on their traplines
- Seasonal activities
- Halloween Activities
- Christmas Concert
- Sports Week
- Graduations
- Prom





A Day in the Life of a Teacher

Start the day 8:30 AM and finish the day after 4:00 PM

10:15-10:30 AM Elementary Morning Recess

10:30-10:40 AM High School Locker Break

12:00-1:00 PM Lunch

2:15-2:30 PM Elementary Afternoon Recess

2:30-2:40 PM High School Locker Breaks

3:30 PM School Dismissal

Teacherages

We have eight teacherages, three of which are 3-bedroom units, with the other five being 2-bedroom units. If sharing a unit with another teacher, rent is half the cost of a nonshared unit. The units are equipped with kitchen appliances, furniture, and a washing machine and dryer. Teachers should bring pots, pans, dishes, and household linens. Satellite TV (requires a television) and Internet cost extra.

What is the pet policy?

Teachers are not able to bring their pets to the community.

What Cell Phone Services are available?

Bell MTS, Virgin Mobile, Fido, and Rogers.





Life in the Community

Animals, fish, birds, plants commonly seen in the area?

Bears, foxes, wolves, moose, caribou, martins, minks, muskrats, and beavers.

We have a lot of good fishing in our lake. The common fish we have are northern pike, walleyes, lake trout, whitefish, suckers, and red suckers.

Regular activities, meetings, clubs in the community:

- Hockey, Volleyball, Baseball
- Fishing Derby
- TV Bingo
- Winter Carnival
- New Year's Activities
- Spring Carnival
- Youth Camp
- Beach Days
- Treaty Days
- Wapisee River Gathering

Traditions and Customs

We are a Christian community. We have two churches and a community Sacred Grounds which are used for prayer.

Is there a hockey arena?

The arena is available anytime of the day. In the summer, the arena is used for other sports.

Sources of information for what is going on in the community?

There is a local TV Channel and radio station. We also have Facebook Groups, including the School's, and a community Buy and Sell.

How can teachers order/receive packages and goods in the community?

Shipments come in 5 days a week. We recommend using Harris Meats & Groceries, or Cantor's Quality Meats & Groceries.







Event highlight: Wapisee River Gathering

Residents of Red Sucker Lake and nearby communities come together for the annual Red Sucker Lake Wapisee River Gathering, a week-long event in August that is filled with traditional and cultural activities. The River Gathering involves a variety of events centered on camping and preparing traditional food.

Each day of the weeklong celebration presents its own form of exciting events, games, and activities hosted by different community offices and organizations, including fishing derbies, traditional dancing, karaoke, live music, a rowing race and an airplane envelope drop. Residents camp at the mouth of the Wapisee River, which is located about 1.5 km south west of Red Sucker Lake, and is only accessible via boat.

This gathering place has historical significance. It has been used for generations as a waypoint before dispersing to each family's hunting grounds. Each clan would wait there for others before travelling together to the Hudson's Bay outpost in Island Lake to engage in fur trade. In the springtime, people would meet at the island before going to their own traplines. As explained by a community representative, communities have long used the island as a place of healing, and as a gathering place.

Source: <https://www.northwest.ca/community/community-engagement/447/red-sucker-lake-celebrates-wapi-see-cultural-days>



Around the Community



①

Red Sucker Lake United Church

②

Red Sucker Lake Full Gospel Church



③

Red Sucker Lake Arena

④

Red Sucker Lake Nursing Station

⑤

Red Sucker Lake First Nation Band Office

⑥

Red Sucker Lake Bulk Fuel Storage Facility

⑦

Northern Store and Tim Hortons

⑧

Red Sucker Lake First Nation Police



5



6



7



8



Quick Facts

Population On-Reserve



**Approximately
939**

Language Spoken



**Oji-Cree and
English**

Treaty



Treaty 5

Average Yearly Temperature



-16°C
January

21°C
July

Access



Year-round



Jan - Mar



The First Nation presently has no year-round road access, and as a result, experiences a higher cost of transportation. The nearest service center is located 450 km away. The community is accessible by winter road from Garden Hill First Nation (3-4 hrs). The winter road also connects them to the First Nations of Theresa Point, Wasagamack, God's Lake Narrows, and Bunibonibee Cree Nation. The existing school and teacherages are connected to water and sewer utilities, 52 houses rely on trucked water cistern and sewage services, 157 households have water trucked to barrels and no sewage service.

The community's geographic zone classification is zone 4, having no year-round road access to the nearest service center, and as a result a higher cost of transportation. The community exhibits an environmental index of C6 (between 50 and 55 degrees latitude).

Directory

Northern Store
204-469-5392 (Tim Hortons)

Post Office
204-469-5969

Nursing Station
204-469-5351 - 5321

Dentist Office
204-469-5783

Band Office
204-469-5041 - 5042

Family Services
204-469-5444

Health Authority
204-469-5229

Education Authority
204-469-5039

School
204-469-5302

Monias Store
204-469-5338

Red Sucker Lake Air Services
(Community Airline)
204-469-5388

Perimeter Airlines
204-469-5295

Northway Aviation
1-888-667-8492

Airport
204-469-5396

Daycare
204-469-5361

Bruce's Log Cabins
204-469-5875

Gas Bar
204-469-5395

Community Band Hall
204-469-5116

Community Police
204-469-5911



@TEACHFORCANADA
TEACHFORCANADA.CA