

WELCOME TO

Sayisi Dene First Nation



**TEACH
FOR
CANADA**
GAKINAAMAAGE



edlanete



Sayisi Dene First Nation

Dear Teachers,

On behalf of the Sayisi Dene Education Authority, it is my pleasure to extend a warm welcome to all of you. We are thrilled to have you join us at Peter Yassie Memorial School in Sayisi Dene First Nation to contribute to the education and growth of our community.

Sayisi Dene First Nation is located in Tadoule Lake, in Northern Manitoba. Our community has a rich history and culture, punctuated by strength and resilience. We have lived in our region since time immemorial and have a deep connection to the land and the natural environment.

Caribou have been a vital part of our peoples' culture and way of life since time immemorial as well, demonstrating what sustainability truly means for all. Historically, caribou provided us with food, clothing, and shelter. The meat and hides were used for sustenance and clothing, while the antlers and bones were used to make tools and weapons. We also relied on caribou for transportation, as skilled trackers and hunters.

Caribou hunting remains an important part of our identity as it provides a connection to our culture and traditional way of life. We practice sustainable hunting, ensuring that caribou populations remain healthy and that the natural environment is not damaged. We believe that caribou have a connection to the Creator and are sacred animals.

Education is of great importance to our community, and we believe that it is a powerful tool for personal and community growth. Our schools strive to provide a quality education that is rooted in our culture and values. We encourage our students to explore their identity and take pride in their Denesuline heritage.

As you embark on your teaching journey in our community, we invite you to learn about our culture, language, and history. We believe that this knowledge will help you to understand and connect with our students better. It is also essential that you respect our traditions and ways of life and work collaboratively with the members of our community. We encourage you to read about our community history before you come to Sayisi Dene First Nation. You can see a brief history further on in this document.

We are excited to have you join our team, and we look forward to working with you to ensure that our students receive the best possible education. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns.

Once again, welcome to Sayisi Dene First Nation!

Sincerely,

Jason Bussidor, Chief of Sayisi Dene First Nation
Geoffrey Ndibali, Principal and Director of Sayisi Dene Education Authority

Community

Sayisi Dene First Nation is located in Northern Manitoba, on Tadoule Lake, near Lac Brochet (Northlands Denesuline First Nation). The land is located on part of the historic lands of the Sayisi Dene.

Sayisi Dene means 'People under the Sun' or 'People of the East'. They are the most eastern of all the Dene peoples.

The Sayisi Dene are known for stewarding caribou.



A Brief History

1910

Signed Treaty 5, no translators provided. The community was led to understand that they would be provided for including building materials, land, and that resources and land rights would not change

1915

A grain elevator and railway opened up in the area, forcing changes in the community

1920

Last Shethanei Lake Crossing (over 100 people, 4 days and 3 nights of a community Drum Dance—ring from Drum Dance is still visible)

1956

Community forcibly relocated from their ancestral homeland of Little Duck Lake to the outskirts of Churchill, Manitoba. The Government of Canada accused the community of killing off the caribou their people had been stewarding since time immemorial

1967

Government creates 'Dene Village' 5 miles out of town as a result of poor conditions at Churchill camp

1969

Conversation began among the community about relocating to traditional territory

1969-70

Community moved by boat and dog team to South Knife Lake and North Life Lake seeking caribou. No caribou are found. These areas could not support the people long-term

1972

John Duck embarks on 13 day journey to Tadoule Lake to find caribou, breaking a trail by dog team and snow shoes

1973

Community moved to Tadoule Lake in tents from summer camp in North Knife Lake

1974

Tadoule Lake K-8 elementary school built

1977

Community store and restaurant opens (Rock Island Café)

Sayisi Dene Community Map

- **1981** The Federal Government established a reserve at Tadoule Lake
- **1982** Hydro arrived in the community
- **1995** School for grades K-12 and teacherages built
- **2000** Ice road opened
- **2016** Community issued a formal apology from the Federal Government and awarded a Relocation Compensation Settlement agreement which was accepted by community referendum. The government settled for \$33.6 million to compensate for their forced removal from their ancestral lands. This relocation almost destroyed the existence of Sayisi Dene and is viewed as one of the most grievous errors committed by the Federal Government of Canada. The community is still awaiting access to the settlement funds



Wildlife commonly seen on the land

Caribou, bears, moose, muskrats, lynx, beaver, wolves, foxes, porcupines, rabbits and abundant birdlife. The lakes and rivers are home to pickerel, trout, whitefish and sturgeons.

Traditions and Customs

Traditional Dene / Anglican



Facilities

- Large gym
- 5 classrooms
- Individual Education Program (IEP) classroom
- Central office
- Principal's office
- Library/computer classroom
- Large outdoor playground
- Kitchen/security room



Unique Events

- Holiday celebrations with theme days and prizes
- Parent-teacher days
- Terry Fox Run

Peter Yassie Memorial School



Welcome!

Welcome to Peter Yassie Memorial School

Our school is named after a very prominent personality in the community who was not only a respected citizen of Tadoule Lake but also a popular pilot.

School Values

The values of the Sayisi Dene or Dene of the East as they are known include but are not limited to: LOVE, RESPECT, TRUTH, COURAGE, HONESTY, HUMILITY, and WISDOM.

Community Vision

We are the Sayisi Dene, united in our identity as keepers of our language and traditions. We come from a safe, happy, healthy community where everyone is respected and valued, from our eldest Elders to youngest babies. We are a wealthy and self-sufficient nation of hard workers and well-educated people of all ages, taking pride in our accomplishments and helping our community thrive and prosper. We will be the keepers of our lands for the rest of eternity, as we have been since time immemorial. We recognize our past for all of the joys and sorrows, and look forward to a bright future for all future generations of Sayisi Dene.

School Population

72

Grades

Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12

Principal and Education Director

Geoffrey Ndibali

Chief

Jason Bussidor

Interim Chairman of School Board

Ernie Bussidor

Councillors

Jordan Cutlip (Education)
Dylan Bussidor





A Day in the Life of a Teacher

8:30 AM - Teachers arrive at school

8:30 - 9:00 AM - Kids arrive and have social time, eat a hot breakfast

9:00 AM - Lessons start

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM - Elementary lunch

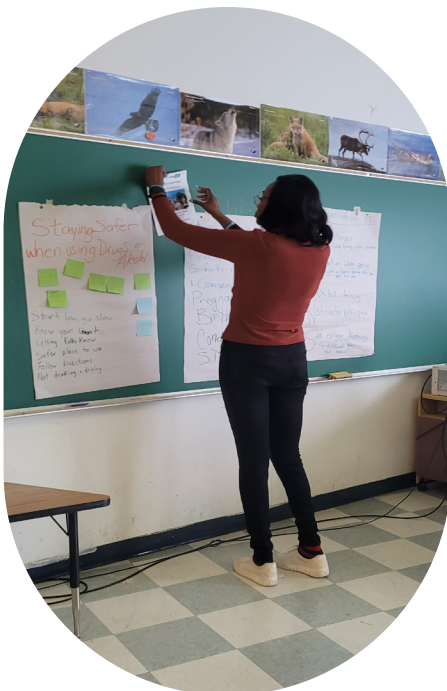
12:00 - 1:00 PM - Middle & high school lunch

Kids and teachers go home for lunch

3:30 PM - School day ends

Teachers stay after school to help kids get home and support extracurricular activities.

Teacher social time, which includes games in the gym, happens after school on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays.



Extracurricular Activities

School events in planning include:

- Movie Nights
- Game Nights
- School sports activities and competitions (with other communities, such as mixed doubles badminton)
- Open gym for community
- Last Friday of every month is Fun Friday with activities for the community





Teacherages

Teacherages are a short walk away from the school. They are fully furnished with an equipped kitchen, kitchen table, TV, couch, bed, and washroom. Bedsheets are required.

Teacherages can be private or semi-private, with one family unit available.





Staying Connected

There is no cellular service in the community, but we are equipped with Starlink satellite internet.

Pet Policy

Pets of any kind are not permitted in the teacherages.





Community Activity Highlight



Every Child Matters Walk

Every year, on Orange Shirt Day, our community comes together to honour and pay tribute to the thousands of Indigenous children and families affected by Residential Schools across Canada.

As part of our Orange Shirt Day commemoration, our school and community organize a walk on September 30th to raise awareness and show support for survivors and their families.

This walk is a symbol of the people of Sayisi Dene First Nation's commitment to healing and reconciliation as a school and community.

Around the Community



①

Every Child Matters Walk

②

Ice Fishing Fun

③

Northern Store

④

Nursing Station

⑤

Peter Yassie Memorial School



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③



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⑤

Get to Know Sayisi Dene Community Members



MEET RUBINA MOISE

Community Member and Kindergarten Teacher Assistant at Peter Yassie Memorial School

What advice would you give to teachers moving to Sayisi Dene?

New teachers should understand the children and the history of the community. They are good kids. Pay attention and be patient. Get involved in the community.



MEET ABU KAMARA

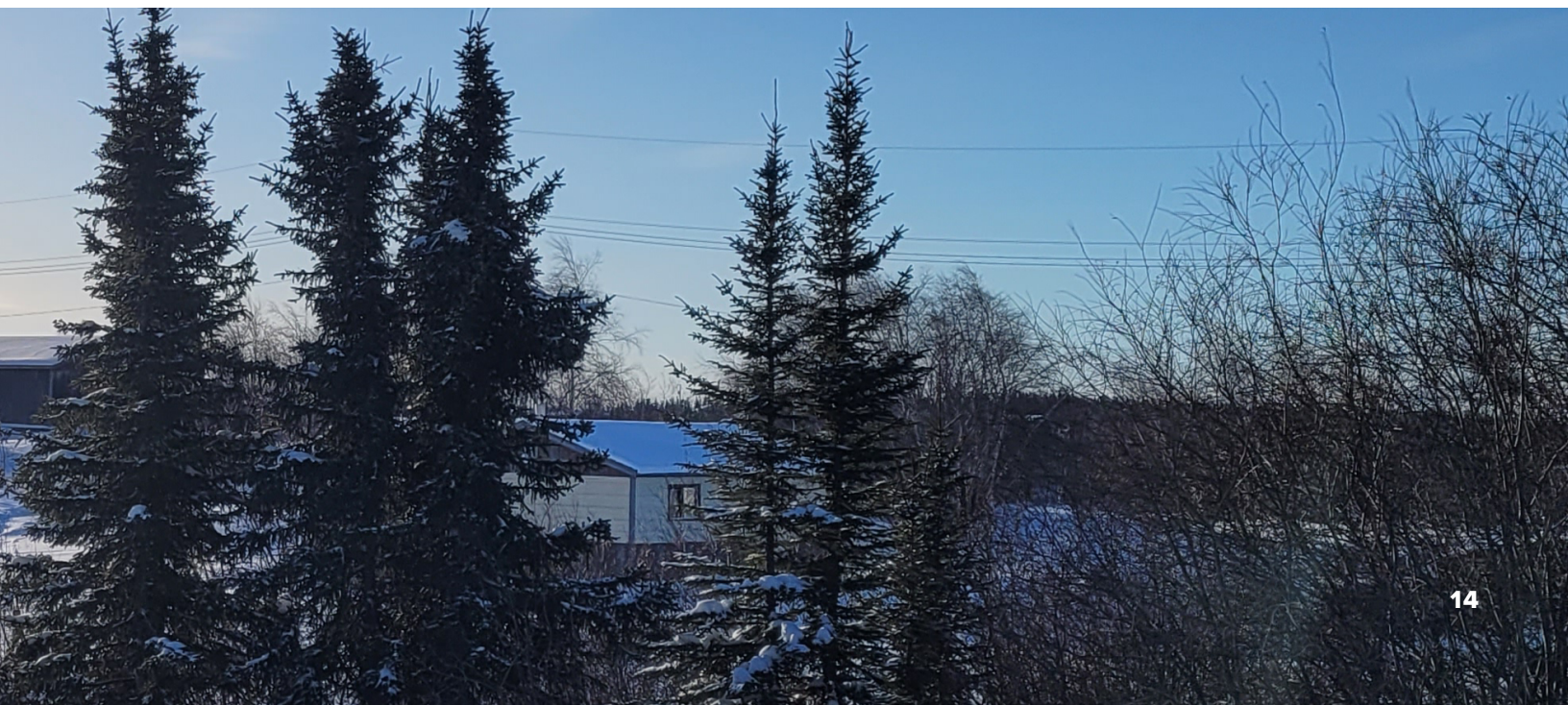
Gym Teacher at Peter Yassie Memorial School

What do you like most about your community?

The people here are very friendly and welcoming. When you go to the store, everyone recognizes you. As a first year teacher, I feel very warmly received. People say hello and let me know that they hope I will be staying.

What advice would you give to teachers moving to Sayisi Dene?

Treat the kids like they are your own. The kids are open to learning new things. This community is very caring and sharing. You can tell that they want to spend time with you. Everyone is jovial and very welcoming.



Quick Facts

Community Name
Sayisi Dene First Nation

Tribal Council
Keewatin Tribal Council

Provincial Territorial Organization (PTO)
Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs



Population On-Reserve

325



Language Spoken

**Denesuline
and English**



Treaty

Treaty 5



Average Yearly Temperature

-23°C
January

20°C
August



Access

Year-round



Month - Month

It takes about 12 hours to drive from
Tadoule Lake to Lynn Lake via
winter road



Sayisi Dene Directory

Peter Yassie Memorial School

(Education Authority)

Tadoule Lake, MB

R0B 2C0

Phone: 204-684-2279 / 204-684-2121

Fax: 204-684-2130

Band Office

Band office takes care of Teacherage

Phone: 204-684-2022

Fax: 204-684-2069

Accommodations:

Nursing Station

Phone: 204-684-2031

Fax: 204-684-2049

Perimeter Airlines

1-800-665-8986



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