

WELCOME TO

Woodland Cree First Nation



GAKINO'AMAAGE
TEACH FOR CANADA

A photograph of a forest with tall, thin trees and a ground covered in moss and fallen leaves. A dog is visible in the background. A large, semi-transparent white graphic element is overlaid on the image, and the word "Tansi" is written in white text across the middle.

Tansi



Woodland Cree
First Nation

Dear Future Teacher,

Welcome to our community. You belong here. At Woodland Cree First Nation (WCFN), we are proud to be exploring and advancing Treaty-based Education in partnership with our Elders, parents, teachers, students and partners. We believe that the key to a healthy future is the protection of a strong education experience for our children, youth and families.

We are proud that our school day reflects a comprehensive school health approach to protect the success and well-being of both staff and students. Comprehensive School Health supports the healthy development of the whole person through its focus on the four pillars of teaching and learning, social and physical environment, partnerships and services and policies. (Joint Consortium for School Health, 2024)

When you join our team, please be prepared to work and play hard! Our students love to play sports and be actively involved in the opportunities offered by our nation and the region. In addition to sports and recreation, our school is actively seeking dynamic teaching professionals who value strong literacy and numeracy practices and who are willing to mentor one another. We are in pursuit of a deep, strong and collaborative teaching team.

WCFN has strong, vibrant and passionate Elders who play a strong role in national politics and the protection of Indigenous identity and languages.

We are looking forward to welcoming you, your family and the love of lifelong learning to our school's community.

“Teachings come from everywhere when you open yourself to them. That’s the trick of it really, to open yourself to everything and everything opens itself to you.”

— Richard Wagamese, Anishinaabe (Ojibwe) novelist, journalist, mentor

Sincerely,

Felicia Ochs
Education Director
Woodland Cree First Nation

The Land

Woodland Cree First Nation is made up of four reserves in northern Alberta: Cadotte Lake, Simon Lake, Golden Lake, and Marten Lake. We are located 85 kilometres northeast of Peace River and 500 kilometres northwest of Edmonton.

Our First Nation's Tapaminamasoyahk Ketaskenow Land Code was the 104th Framework Agreement signatory to regain land governance through the land code of our 16106 hectares—the first in Alberta! The new land code will help protect our land and allow us to sustainably and responsibly maintain it for future generations.

Around Woodland Cree First Nation, you will see moose, deer, beaver, muskrat, swan, bear, fish, berries, and medicinal plants. There are plenty of recreational and hunting opportunities available.



Woodland Cree Community Map





Bison Ranch

17 head of Wood Bison (sakāwmostos) are within our 700-acre designated ranch in Marten Lake. Bison caretakers care for these majestic animals within our home.



Our Indigenous Way of Life

We honor our role as keepers of the land. We honor the wisdom and knowledge of our ancestors. Our language and our culture connect us to the land.

We believe in the Interconnectedness of all life and that balance and harmony is important to our survival.

Our vision is to protect our Nehiyaw/Cree teachings of natural law, protocols and beliefs which connect us to the Creator.





Community



A Brief History

- 1989** August 28: The Woodland Cree First Nation # 474 is created. Interim Chief, Melvin Laboucan, initiated the forming of the new band. Interim Councillors were: Archie Cardinal, John W. Cardinal, Roy Letendre, and William Thomas
- 1991** The Woodland Cree Chief and Council signed the Adhesion to Treaty No. 8 on September 24th, 1991
- 1992** The lands were surveyed and reserves were established. Key infrastructure was built and the delivery of programs and services began. The school was operated by the Northland School Division #60 under a Tuition Agreement

September 22: Woodland Cree First Nation began to operate the community school
- 1995** The Woodland Cree #474, Loon River #478, and Whitefish Lake #459 First Nations formed the Kee Tas Kee Now Tribal Council (KTC). Long-term Contribution Agreements for essential program services were negotiated with the Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC)
- Late 1900s** The Woodland Cree First Nation took control of the delivery of Education. The 4-Ward Board of Education was established with representation from Simon Lake, Cadotte Lake, Marten Lake, and the Métis
- 2017** June: The Kee Tas Kee Now Tribal Council Education Authority (KTCEA) was established. It took over 3 Band Operated Schools – Clarence Jaycox, Cadotte Lake, and Atikameg
- 2019** June: The Chiefs of Loon River, Lubicon Lake, Peerless Trout, Whitefish Lake and Woodland Cree sign a 10-year KTCEA Funding Agreement with the Federal Government
- 2024** June: Woodland Cree First Nation presents a Band Council Resolution to leave the Education Authority and pursue Treaty-Based Education. Gakino’amaage: Teach For Canada is adopted as a hiring and employment partner to support this approach

Community Language and Customs

Woodland Cree and English

Community Events

Our community has two outdoor hockey rinks with lighting for community use. We provide pickle ball, beading circles, bingo, quad rallies, softball tournaments, fishing derby and many other community events.

Treaty Days (Summer): Annual 4-day celebration of Treaty 8 held at the Nation's Treaty Grounds. Everyone is invited; students, Elders, leaders, members and neighbouring communities. Special guests are often invited.

Netting Camps (Winter)

Hunting Camp (Fall)

Hunting Week (September)

Quad Rally

Hockey Nights

Family Dances

Treaty 8 Games

Land-based Learning

Traditional Ribbon Skirt Making and Regalia Making Weekends

Christmas Family bingo and Christmas Staff Party

Thanksgiving, Easter, Spring Break, and National Indigenous Peoples Day

Staying Connected

Woodland Cree First Nation Facebook Page

Cadotte Lake Learning Centre Facebook Page

Community Message Boards





Cadotte Lake Learning Centre



Welcome!

Cadotte Lake Learning Centre accommodates Kindergarten to Grade 12. We are proud to offer access to hundreds of acres of forests, and daily breakfast and lunch programs for students and staff.

School Mandate

“We, the Woodland Cree people, will develop and maintain a self-supporting community for our children, which respects the individual, all people, the environment and other communities.”

What is your school proud of?

Cadotte Lake Learning Centre is proud to be operating as a band-operated school beginning in 2024-2025 with the support of Woodland Cree First Nation. We have partnered with the Indigenous Knowledge & Wisdom Centre to research how communities might work together with partners in education to deliver Treaty-Based Education.

School Facilities

We have traditional classroom spaces at our K-12 learning centre, a Career and Technology Supports portable classroom with musical instruments and sewing machines. There is a full-size gymnasium with workout equipment, high-speed wifi and hundreds of acres of forests.

Extracurricular activities and clubs

Guitar/Percussion, Indigenous Games, Ceramics and Pottery
Yoga and Daily Physical Activities, Volleyball, Hockey, Basketball, Track and Field, Swimming, Canoeing, Traditional Dance, Travel Club, Music and Choir, Nutrition or Cooking Clubs, Dungeons and Dragons, Anime Club.

School Population

250

Education Director

Felicia Ochs

Principal

TJ Gladstone

Secretary

Natasha Auger

Grades

K-12



Summer School

Our Summer School experience is one-of-a-kind

Learning on the Mighty Peace River

The Cadotte Lake Learning Centre offers the coolest summer school ever in the traditional Voyageur canoes on the Mighty Peace River.

Partnering with the Canadian Voyageur Brigade Society, Woodland Cree First Nation provides this unique outdoor learning experience for Grades 10-12 annually during July.





Teacherages



The teacherages range from family duplexes to single-trailer homes. They are furnished with basic kitchen equipment, furniture, laundry facilities, appliances, and drinkable water and are within walking distance of our health centre, school and band office.

We have high-speed wifi. Teachers typically have their own private units. Teachers are encouraged to bring bedding, toiletries, television, cleaning supplies and cooking supplies to support their dietary preferences. Rent is included but a damage deposit of \$1000 is required.

Pet Policy

Staff are welcome to bring their domestic pets, but must adhere to the community's pet policy.

A Day in the Life of a Teacher

The day begins at 7:45 AM and teachers have 30 minutes to prepare for the first bus to arrive. Three buses come to the school and students begin with breakfast and a circle song and welcome from our Elders. Teachers will be provided team teaching opportunities whereby they can support mixed-grade classrooms of approximately 15-20 students. Kindergarten is our language nest and taught as Cree Immersion for a full day. Students will have two formal recesses and staff rotate their supervision time on our new playground and field. All teachers are provided with planning and release time each day with the exception of extreme staffing shortages or special days.

Staff teach until 4:00 PM. There are opportunities for extra-curricular coaching and coaches are remunerated for these roles. Evening community events are posted in advance and while they are not mandatory for staff, we highly encourage them to consider investing in proactive community building and cultural participation here at Woodland Cree First Nation. All staff will be invited to take Cree Language classes with our Elders if they are interested in learning our community language.

We have created a four-day schedule where Fridays are either off of work or professional development on a bi-weekly basis. On Fridays, our students will be participating in physical education and/or land-based learning experiences with our neighbouring partners, regional coaches and community Elders.

Community Member Feature



Donna Ominayak

Elder, Mother, Kokum

I am proud to be an Elder at the school. I share my knowledge and give our students access to Indigenous ways of learning and being.

I started this role earlier this year and it warms my heart that students already call me kokum (grandma). I aim to make myself available to the students so that they know that there is always a warm person, an Elder looking out for and caring for them.

This is just one of the many ways that I serve my community. I am Secretary for our Elder's Council and was part of the committee that made history by ratifying our own Land Code which asserts our sovereignty over our lands.

One of my favourite times of the year is in the summer when we hold our Woodland Cree Elders Gathering in Otter River. A lot of us Elders participate and will camp on the land for it. Some activities include painting, making dreamcatchers, beadwork, knife throwing, axe throwing and archery.

I look forward to getting to know you and having you become part of our community!

Around the Community



Getting to and from Woodland Cree

The closest airport to Woodland Cree First Nation is in Grande Prairie, but regular flights to Edmonton are more consistent and affordable.

The Nation is located 5 hours from Edmonton, Alberta near the Town of Peace River.

All major restaurants and stores can be found 45 minutes away in Peace River.

①

Woodland Cree
Childcare Center

②

Woodland
Administration Office

③

Cadotte Store



Quick Facts



Community Name
Woodland Cree First Nation

Population On-Reserve



750

Language Spoken



**Woodland
Cree,
English**

Treaty



**Adhesion to
Treaty 8**

Average Yearly Temperature



-17°C
January

20°C
July

Winter Road Open Dates



Year-round



Directory

**Cadotte Lake
Learning Center**
780-629-3767

**Felicia Ochs
Education Director**
780-910-8211

Band Office
780-629-3803 or
1-800-465-8029

Health Centre
780-629-8963

Child and Family Services
780-748-0585

**Simon Lake Gas Station
(Centex)**
825-247-0051

Radio Station
780-649-6425











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