
Wabowden

Community Overview

History

Wabowden, situated near the geographic centre of the province, was first located at Setting Lake which is part of the historic Grass River fur trade route. With the arrival of the railway in the 1920s, the community relocated to its present site on Bowden Lake. Because of its existence for some 100 years, family structures are well developed and social functions are continual. The community finds strength in being populated by people of many diverse backgrounds, although the Métis culture is dominant. Many families originated from Cross Lake, so there are strong historic ties to that community. Quality of life is exceptional, because of the excellent water supply, low air pollution, adequate housing, excellent educational facilities and ongoing recreational programming.

Access

Wabowden is 111 kilometres (km) southwest of Thompson and 640 km north of Winnipeg along Provincial Trunk Highway 6.

Governance

The community is represented by a mayor and council under The Northern Affairs Act.

Economic Overview

Wabowden is located in the southern part of the nickel belt. A number of ore bodies are known to exist near the community. Manibridge Nickel Mine operated from 1970 to 1976. When this mine was operational, the population was over 1,000. In 1972, a logging operation was started at Sipiwesk, 16 km west of Wabowden, providing wood to the pulp mill in The Pas. The timber harvest was an important industry. The opening of the Bucko Lake Mine in 2003 by Crowflight Minerals injected the community with new life and is no longer in operation. Pre-selling of ore has enabled Crowflight to continue to operate even in the current down trends in world markets. Crowflight Minerals Inc. has retained Dumas Mining Contractors to run the site. Some

employees have moved to Wabowden, some are rotational employees, while others are mining contractors. Crowflight Minerals operates a housing camp that holds 120 employees. The community council, Crowflight Minerals Inc. and University College of the North (UCN) joined forces and have mining training in the community which is being attended not only by locals, but by others from outlying communities. Wabowden is also situated in the Wabowden Clay Belt, an agricultural zone with some potential for agricultural applications. An agriculture research station operated from 1956 to 1965 to assess soil fertility and plant adaptability in mid-northern Manitoba. Commercial fishing continues to be one of the major sources of employment. The Wabowden fish station serves the communities of Wabowden, Nelson House, Thicket Portage, Cross Lake, Snow Lake, Pikwitonei and Herb Lake Landing, all of which have access to the Nelson and Grass River watershed areas. The area connection with the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation provides valuable facilities and creates seasonal employment. Trappers in the Wabowden Registered Trapline Zone produce additional income for the economy.

Contacts

Wabowden Community Council
Box 130
Wabowden, MB R0B 1S0

Phone: 204-689-2362
Fax: 204-689-2355
Email: wabowdenc@gmail.com

Office hours: Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Bayline Regional Round Table Head Office
Phone: 204-689-2063

Wabowden Community Development Corporation
Phone: 204-689-2362

Wabowden

Staff

The community employs a community administrative officer and assistant, public works employees, water operator and backup, recreation director, fire chief and emergency coordinator.

Statistics

Census Year	Population
1985	660
1991	546
1996	563
2001	558
2006	516
2011	550
2016	442
2021	400

**information is from Statistics Canada*

Households

There are 151 housing units.

Boundary

Manitoba Regulation 67/2009 refers to Director of Surveys at Winnipeg as No. 19313. See map.

Property Assessment and Taxes

Information is from the 2023 assessment roll and Tax Rates Regulation (2023) of Manitoba Municipal and Northern Relations.

Value of Assessment	
Business	\$75,700
Real Property	\$9,146,810
Total	\$9,222,510
Grants-in-lieu	\$2,324,830
Exempt	\$2,439,230
Rate of Taxation	
General Municipal	5.7 mills
Business Tax	3.75%
School Levies	
Education Support	8.140 mills
Frontier School Division #48	12.422 mills

Emergency Services

Fire

Firefighting capability is based on one pumper truck. Portable forestry equipment is also available for grass and brush fires. The

volunteer fire department responds locally and may respond outside the community boundary upon request. Phone: 911.

Police

Police response is from the Wabowden RCMP detachment. Phone: 911.

Medical

The provincial nursing station is staffed by a public health nurse, health worker and receptionist. A fully equipped ambulance provides emergency services to the hospital in Thompson. Phone: 911. The Northern Patient Transportation Program provides financial assistance for medical travel.

Communication Services

Phone

BellMTS provides individual line service and digital switching with toll free calling to Thompson. Office toll free: 204-225-5687.

Cellular Service/High-Speed Internet

Available.

Wi-Fi

Unavailable.

Community-Based Services

Hydro

Manitoba Hydro provides landline electric power. Office: 204-677-2357 in Thompson.

Water

Water is pumped from Bowden Lake to the treatment plant. Water is filtered, chlorinated and distributed by waterlines throughout the community. All but one is connected.

Wastewater

Wastewater is collected by a low-pressure and gravity system to a lift station and then pumped to a lagoon for treatment.

Waste Disposal

Solid waste is picked up twice weekly and transported to a site three km north of the community.

Schools

Mel Johnson School, operated by Frontier School Division, serves 113 students from Nursery to Grade 12. Phone: 204-689-2620.

Recreation Facilities

- baseball diamond
- beach
- campers park area
- recreation complex (including multi-purpose hall, ice surface, curling rink)
- toboggan slide area
- tot lots

Recreation Activities

- social events are highlighted by an annual July 1 sports day and the end of the winter carnival
- sport fishing, hunting and other outdoor activities
- Setting Lake-Grass River watershed is ideal for camping, canoeing, sport fishing, sport hunting, swimming and water skiing
- Wayside Park at Setting Lake is a favourite camping and tourist location with 15 electrical sites and 19 sites without as well all sites have picnic tables and barbecues

Commercial Services

Accommodation

- Available in the community.

Transportation

- Gardewine North provides freight service from its Winnipeg terminal. Office toll free: 1-800-665-7340.
- The Hudson Bay Railway, owned and operated by Arctic Gateway Group, provides three times weekly passenger, parcel and carload freight service from The Pas and Thompson.
- Daily bus passenger and parcel service is available from Wabowden to Thompson and Winnipeg. Maple Bus Lines Office toll free: 1-833-339-4197, Thompson Bus Phone: 204-939-3991 or Mahihkan Bus Lines Phone: 204-677-4181.

Business Directory

Business	Phone
Carl Dram Fisheries	204-689-2140
Dwyer's General Store	204-689-2277
Fourre Transportation	204-689-2607
Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation	204-689-2198
Grass River Logging	204-689-2652
Jonasson Fisheries	204-689-2218
Mountain Ash Grove Greenhouse	204-689-2218
Mud Lake Logging	204-689-2680
Nelson River Logging Ltd	204-689-2319
Pierone Construction	204-689-2502
Silver Leaf Hotel and Motel	204-689-2127
Skulmoski Fisheries	204-689-2334
Smith's Trucking and Construction	204-689-2345
Trach Trucking	204-689-1618
Wabman Trucking	204-689-2261
Wabowden Ice Cream Parlour	204-689-2247

Government Services

Provincial Government Departments

Manitoba Economic Development, Investment, Trade and Natural Resources

Regional Operations, Northern Region, District Office and conservation officer Phone: 204-677-6640 and fire operations manager Phone: 204-677-6623 in Thompson.

Manitoba Environment and Climate Change

Regional drinking water officer Phone: 204-677-6704 in Thompson. Environment officer Phone: 204-620-5797 or 431-355-2245 in The Pas. The 24 hour environmental emergency response line toll free: 1-855-944-4888.

Manitoba Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care

Public health inspector Phone: 204-677-6472 in Thompson.

Manitoba Indigenous Economic Development

Communities Economic Development Fund (CEDF) Phone: 204-778-4138 in Thompson (Head Office) or toll free: 1-800-561-4315.

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Manitoba Justice

Circuit court sits at Thompson coordinated by the Thompson Regional Court Office Phone: 204-677-6761.

Manitoba Labour and Immigration

Employment Standards Branch Phone: 204-945-3352 in Winnipeg or toll free: 1-800-821-4307.

Inspection and Technical Services, building inspector Phone: 204-945-3373 in Winnipeg or Email: TechnicalServices@gov.mb.ca.

Workplace Safety and Health Branch toll free: 1-855-957-SAFE (7233).

Manitoba Municipal and Northern Relations

Northern Affairs, Northern Region Phone: 204-677-6786 in Thompson. The 24 hour emergency number toll free: 1-866-753-3111.

Community and Regional Planning Branch, Regional Office Phone: 204-945-8353 in Winnipeg.

Community Development Branch, Eastman/Norman Region regional consultant Phone: 204-268-6021 in Beausejour.

Office of the Fire Commissioner, emergency services officer Phone: 204-726-6855 in Brandon or Email: firecomm@gov.mb.ca. The 24 hour emergency response number toll free: 1-888-253-1488.

Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure

Emergency Measures Organization, General Office and emergency management advisor Phone: 204-945-3050 in Winnipeg or toll free: 1-888-267-8298.

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