

Fisher River, Manitoba

Community Profile



Community Profiles developed by

Community

Futures



East Interlake

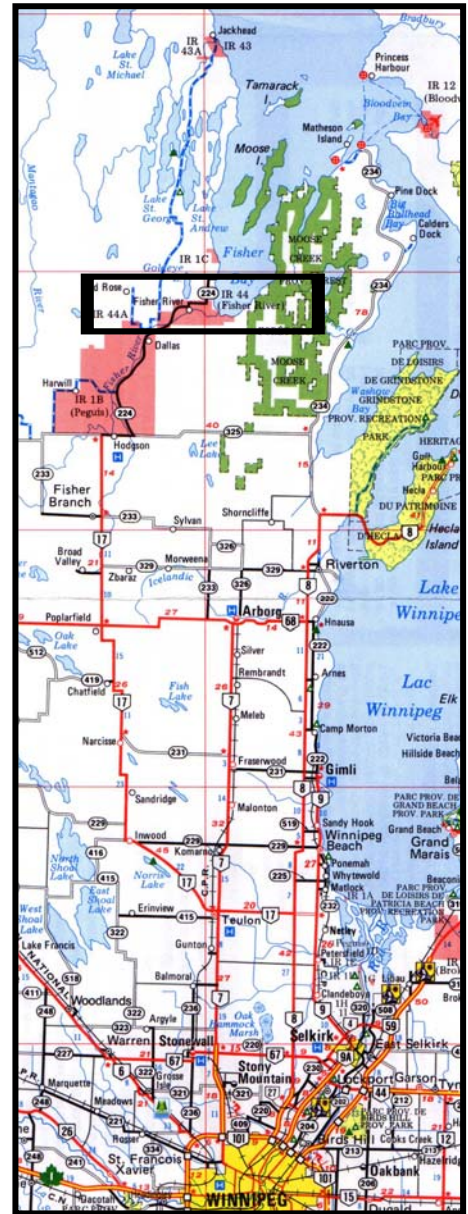
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Location

Fisher River is composed of two reserves, Fisher River 44 and Fisher River 44A. Fisher River 44 is located at the south end of Fisher Bay, with Fisher River 44A situated approximately 3 km West, bordering the north end of the Peguis reserve. Fisher River 44 and Fisher River 44A are located approximately 193 km (2 hours and 15 minutes) north of Manitoba's capital city, Winnipeg.

Highway Distance from Fisher River to	Approximately	
Fisher Bay	24 km	25 min.
Peguis	26 km	22 min.
R.M. of Fisher	37 km	30 min.
R.M. of Bifrost	47 km	40 min.
Kinonjeostegon	71 km	1 hr. 22 min.
R.M. of Armstrong	76 km	56 min.
Arborg	94 km	1 hr. 7 min.
Riverton	102 km	1 hr. 11 min.
R.M. of Gimli	120 km	1 hr. 37 min.
Hecla	124 km	1 hr. 43 min.
R.M. of Rockwood	131 km	1 hr. 33 min.
Pine Dock	137 km	1 hr. 33 min.
Teulon	144 km	1 hr. 41 min.
Matheson Island	150 km	1 hr. 43 min.
Winnipeg Beach	154 km	1 hr. 47 min.
Dunnottar	160 km	1 hr. 51 min.
Stonewall	172 km	2 hrs. 2 min.
R.M. of Rosser	180 km	2 hrs. 8 min.



NOTE: Data courtesy of Microsoft MapPoint 2002

Community Overview

Population

The regional population statistics of December 31, 2006 shows that the on-reserve population is 1709 and the off-reserve population is 1389. The total population is approximately 3098.

Language

The dominant language spoken in Fisher River is English. Cree, the native language of people in the community, is also spoken, mostly by the elders. Some people also speak Ojibway.

Ethnic Origin

Most of the people living in Fisher River are from North American Indian and Métis descent. There are also people with English, Scottish, French, Swedish and Ukrainian backgrounds.



Community Contact

Fisher River Cree Nation

Box 367

Koostatak, MB

ROC 1S0

Phone: (204) 645-2171

Fax: (204) 645-2745

Website: www.fisherriver.com

History

Fisher River has signed treaties on two separate occasions - originally the 1875 Norway House Treaty, followed by Treaty Five in 1908, which brought more people into the Band. Treaty Five states that the government obligations are as follows: creation of reserves; 160 acres per family of five (only 100 acres at Fisher River); subject to Government's right to deal with settlers on reserve lands; right to sell or lease reserve lands with consent of Indians and to appropriate reserve lands for federal public purposes, subject to compensation for improvements; rights to the navigation of all lakes and rivers; free access to the shores thereof; schools; right to hunt and fish in surrendered area, though subject to government regulations; control of liquor traffic. The treaty presents miscellaneous agricultural equipment, supplies etc.; flags, medals. Continuing benefits for First Nations people include the annual payment of \$5 for each Aboriginal person, \$25 for Chiefs, \$15 for Headmen and \$1,000 for ammunition and twine. In addition, Chiefs and Headmen receive a suit of clothes every three years.

After the Norway House Treaty was signed, people decided to start settling in what is now Fisher River Cree Nation. However, their plans were delayed until 1877, as a nearby Icelandic community had an outbreak of smallpox. When the quarantine was lifted, 43 families boarded York boats and travelled to Fisher River. Over 200 people made the 200 kilometre move South on that journey and many more families from Northern Manitoba joined the original settlers throughout the 1880's. Homes were built and land for farming was divided amongst the settlers. Farming techniques were adapted quickly, and people also took part in seasonal labour in the fishing and lumber industry.

Fisher River is named after the "fisher" animal, which belongs to the same family as the weasel and skunk. Fisher River 44 is 13,694 acres (5,542 hectares) and Fisher River 44A is 1,920 acres (777 hectares) totaling 15,614 acres (6,319 hectares).

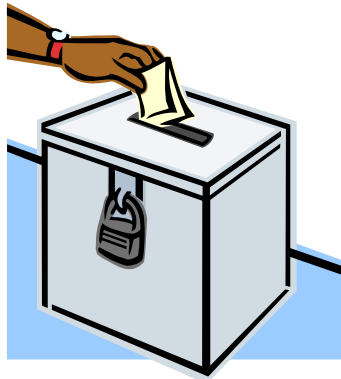


Local Government

The chief and council, who serve two year terms, are elected representatives of the band members and are the authorized local government and authority on the reserve. They promote the community's culture and customs and have important planning functions. They set goals and objectives for the band, make and adopt policies and regulations which provide direction to the band employees and ensure that employees carry out their decisions.

The chief and council are responsible for local administration of community services for residents on band controlled land including housing, roads, sanitation and social assistance. The council is also responsible for the interests of band membership with regard to matters affecting Aboriginal rights, treaty rights, usufructuary, band capital and revenue funds in trust.

They may also deal with matters involving non band members with respect to business and industrial interests, such as the regulation of land leases, oil royalties, mineral royalties, lumber and tourism.



2009

POSITION	OFFICIALS
Chief	David Crate
Chief Executive Officer	Sheila Murdock
Councillors	Keith Sinclair Vince Crate Conrad Garson Carl Cochrane

Community Services

The Fisher River Cree Nation Building employs people who provide a variety of services to the community.

- The Finance Manager is responsible for much of the financial affairs of the Chief, Council and administrative staff.
- The Band Membership Clerk prepares monthly reports to the chief and council as well as Indian Affairs, regarding any events (birth, deaths, etc.) affecting band population, and the issuing of status cards to eligible persons.
- The Capital Projects Manager is responsible for the coordination of all capital projects initiated, such as housing construction and repair projects. This person prepares budgets and orders the materials for construction and ensures the budget is closely followed.
- The Social Services Administrator and their Assistant are responsible for in-home care of disabled and elderly residents, which involves housekeeping services and yard and house maintenance. They also assess the unemployment rate, amongst other duties.
- Economic development is offered by the Ochekwi' Sipi Economic Development Corporation. Residents of Fisher River Cree Nation are encouraged and assisted in the development of business opportunities. People may be assisted with financial loans or technical assistance. Education/training may be offered if it is seen to benefit both the individual and the community.
- Community members of Fisher River and nearby Fisher Bay residents have individual locked mail boxes inside of the building. There is a full-time employee and all regular Canada Post services are offered.
- A Youth Justice Coordinator works with the Justice Committee, the Constable, RCMP and Probationary Service. Responsibilities include fine option administration and youth administration.
- The Recreation Committee coordinates activities and raises money by holding bingos, raffles, etc. All funds raised are used for the running and maintenance of recreational activities.



Community Facilities

There are many facilities in Fisher River. The Fisher River Cree Nation Recreation Grounds is home to an outdoor roofed dance hall, rodeo grounds, amusement park and concession booth. An annual event held on the grounds is the Fisher River treaty celebrations. There are also three baseball diamonds used by fastball, slowpitch and hardball teams in the area.



Playground equipment located on the Fisher River Cree Nation Recreation Grounds

The Fisher River Cree Nation Community Hall is host to many recreational activities such as bingo, community meetings, dances and weddings. The Fisher River Sports Complex has a skating rink which is used for minor and recreation hockey and figure skating, as well as a bowling alley, a curling rink and a canteen.



The Fisher River Arena Complex

Fire



The First Nation has a fire truck and a 12 person volunteer fire department, trained at a basic level, as well as a full-time and part-time fire chief on reserve. (204) 645-2000. The Fisher River Fire Hall is in Koostatak (204) 645-2228

Police



The band employs one band Constable.
The nearest RCMP detachment is in Fisher Branch
Phone - (204) 372-8484

Refuse



Waste: There is a weekly garbage collection service.
One landfill site is utilized.

Energy



Hydro Electricity – service is provided by landline.

Water

Local residents have approximately 110 private wells from which they get their water. The school, administration building and band store each have a separate deep well. There is no central water treatment system.

Sewer

Most residents use septic fields and pit privies. There are 255 houses that have septic fields and 110 houses that have trucked septic service. The school utilizes a two-celled lagoon, while the administration building and band store use a septic field.

Visitor's Centre/Heritage Centre

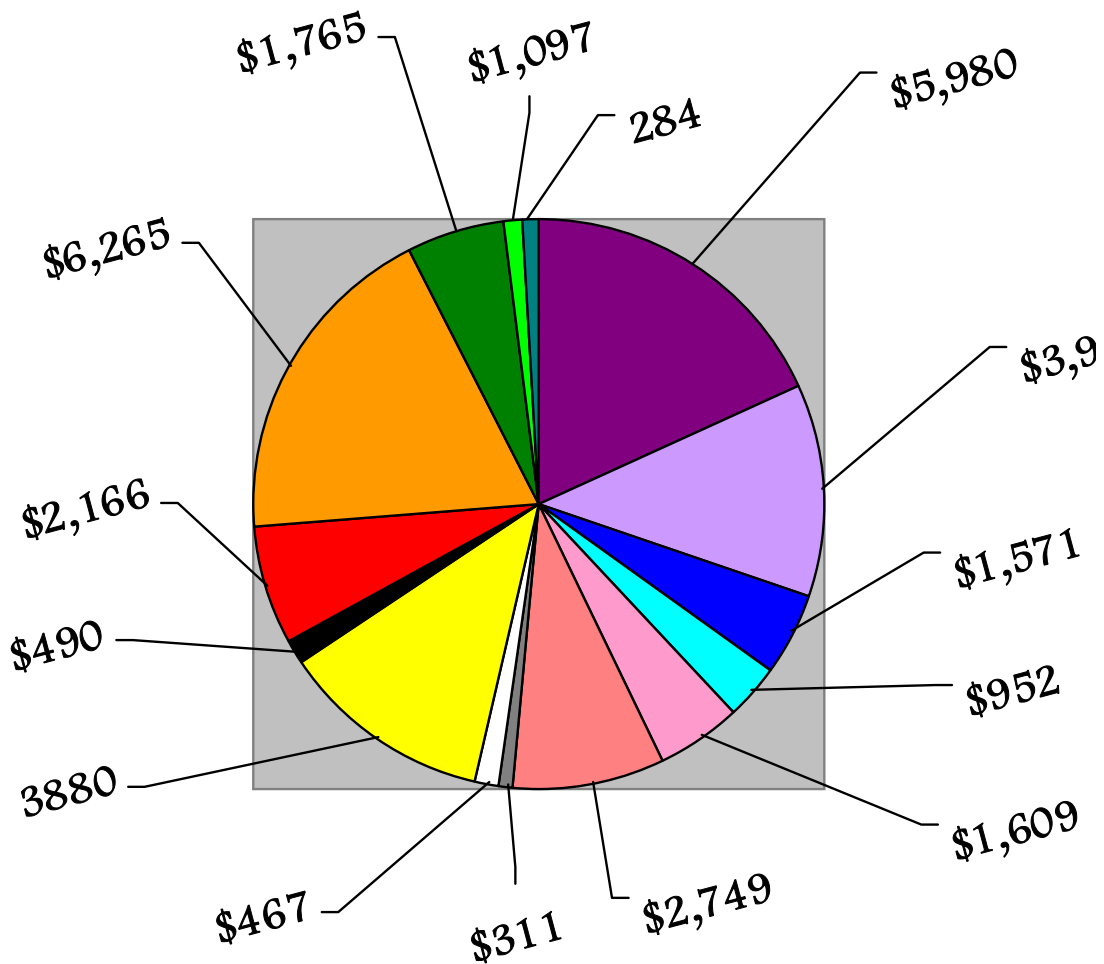
This beautiful building is a place for the people in the Fisher River community as well as tourists to come and see. Local contractors built the building. Delmar Crate built the furniture from a unique wood called diamond willow, named for its diamond shaped knots. Decks will be added to the outside of the building to make more room for future events to be held here, such as fish fries and barbeques. An upper viewing deck will also be added and can be accessed from the inside upstairs through a door and will have a staircase going down from the outside.

Inside the building coffee and tea will be served and visitors can view the various crafts that will be on display. Also available to the visitor will be pamphlets, brochures, pictures and albums about the Fisher River Cree Nation. Outside there will be a boardwalk built that leads to the marina, making this an ideal arrival and departure point for people coming here via water. There will also be canoe, kayak and paddleboat rides. Other plans in the works are a replica of the Hudson Bay Trading Company that used to exist here and a complete museum.



Average Yearly Household Expenditures

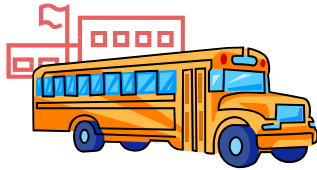
NOTE: Data courtesy of PCensus 2006



- Food
- Shelter
- Household operation
- Household furnishings and equipment
- Clothing
- Transportation
- Health care
- Personal care
- Recreation
- Reading materials and education
- Tobacco products and alcoholic beverages
- Personal taxes
- Personal insurance payments and pension contributions
- Gifts, money and contributions to persons outside household
- Miscellaneous expenditures

Education

Type	Name	Address & Phone Number
Day Care	Wee Care Day Care Center	Lot 78 Koostatak (204) 645-2433
Mixed	Charles Sinclair School Kindergarten – Grade 12 (Band-operated)	Lot 78 Koostatak (204) 645-2206








Post-Secondary Education

The Verna J. Kirkness Institute of Higher Learning is located in Fisher River and it offers courses from postsecondary institutes in Winnipeg, such as Red River College.

NOTE: Data courtesy of PCensus 2006

Total Population with Post-Secondary Qualifications by Major Field of Study	Male	Female
Educational, recreational and counseling services	10	20
Fine and applied arts	0	0
Humanities and related fields	10	10
Social sciences and related fields	10	10
Commerce, management and business administration	0	15
Agricultural, biological, nutritional, and food sciences	0	10
Engineering and applied sciences	0	0
Engineering and applied science technologies and trades	45	10
Health professions, sciences and technologies	0	30
Mathematics and physical sciences	0	0
No specialization and all other	0	0
Dominant Male Field Engineering and applied science technologies and trades		
Dominant Female Field Health professions, sciences and technologies		

Communication

Newspapers	
Daily 	The Winnipeg Free Press The Winnipeg Sun
Weekly	The Interlake Spectator Grassroots News The Drum
Television	
Television Stations 	CBC CKY
Cable Television	No
Radio	
Coverage 	Some southern radio stations NCI FM
Internet	
Access to the Internet 	Yes
High Speed Internet	Yes
Telephone	
Service	Yes
Cellular Phone	
Service	Yes
Mail	
Postal Outlet 	Yes Canada Post Located in the Gas & Grocery
Post Office Lock Box Pick Up	Yes
Home Delivery	No

Health Care

NOTE: Only the facilities in Koostatak are located in the community.
The rest are the closest facilities to residents of this community.


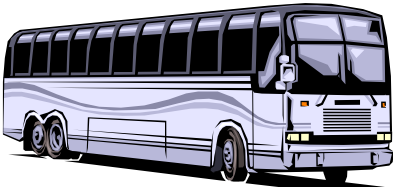


Facility	Name	Address & Phone Number
Hospital	Percy E. Moore Hospital	Hodgson, MB (204) 372-8444
Medical Clinic	Fisher Branch Medical Clinic	Lot 9 Main St. Fisher Branch, MB (204) 372-6258
Personal Care Home	Ochekwi-Sipi First Nation Personal Care Home	RL 82 Koostatak On Fisher River reserve (204) 645-2811 (204) 645-2039 (204) 645-2041
Dental Clinic	Fisher River Dental	Lot 83 Koostatak (204) 645-2953
Health Centre	Fisher River Health Centre	Lot 83 Koostatak (204) 645-2689

Ambulance

Fisher Ambulance Service Ltd.
Peguis, MB
(204) 645-2300
(204) 645-2001
(204) 645-2000



Transportation

Highways	PTH 7 PTH 17 PR 224
Taxi 	Yes Provided by Taxi Service
Intercity Bus Service 	Yes Provided by Grey Goose Bus Lines
Local Bus Service	No
Handivan Service	Yes
Small Craft Harbours/Marinas 	Yes
Aircraft Base	No
Commercial Airport 	No The closest is the Winnipeg International Airport, which is approximately 211 km away.

Agriculture

There is both grain farming and cattle farming in Fisher River.

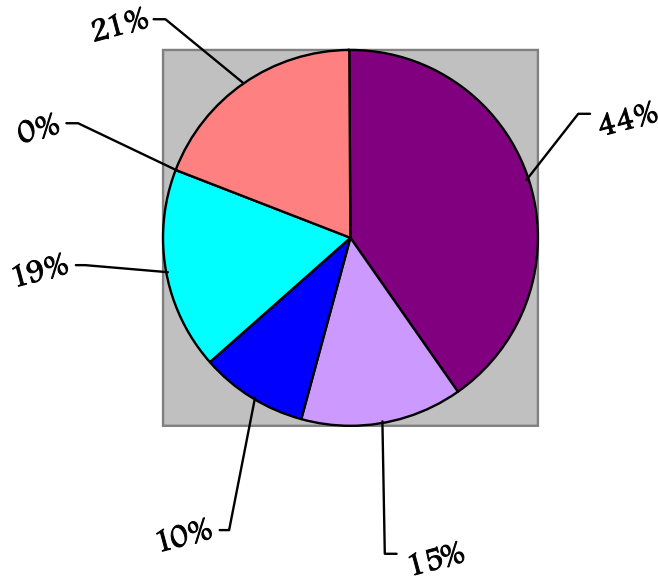


Fishing Industry

Commercial fishing takes place in Fisher River. Fishers use commercial fishing boats and, once caught, the fish are taken to a commercial fishing plant, such as the McBeth Fishery in Fisher River. Some of the fish in Fisher River are pickerel (walleye), mullet (sucker), northern pike (jack), perch and sauger.

Place of Work

NOTE: Data courtesy of PCensus 2006



■ In municipality	■ In different municipality
■ In neighbouring municipality	■ At home
■ Outside Canada	■ No fixed workplace

Income Projections

NOTE: Data courtesy of PCensus 2006

2006 Estimates and Projections Income Trends	
Average household income	
2008 estimated	\$28,406
2011 projected	\$29,844
2013 projected	\$30,802
Aggregate household income	
2008 estimated	\$11,533
2011 projected	\$13,877
2013 projected	\$15,555
Change in average household income	
2008 to 2011	\$1,438
2011 to 2013	\$958
Change in aggregate household income	
2008 to 2011	\$2,345
2011 to 2013	\$1,678
Median Estimated Household Income	\$21,333

Labour Force and Employment Rates

NOTE: Data courtesy of PCensus 2006

Total in the labour force – 450				
	In the labour force	Employed	Unemployed	Not in the labour force
Total 15-24 years of age	45	25	20	135
Males 15-24 years of age	25	15	15	65
Females 15-24 years of age	15	10	10	65
Total 25 years of age and older	405	340	65	195
Males 25 years of age and older	210	170	45	90
Females 25 years of age and older	195	170	25	105

	Participation rate	Employment-population ratio	Unemployment rate
Total 15-24 years of age	25.7%	14.3%	44.4%
Males 15-24 years of age	26.3%	15.8%	60%
Females 15-24 years of age	17.6%	11.8%	66.7%
Total 25 years of age and older	67.5%	56.7%	16%
Males 25 years of age and older	68.9%	55.7%	21.4%
Females 25 years of age and older	65%	56.7%	12.8%

Businesses and Organizations

ACCOMMODATIONS

- Arlene's Bed & Breakfast
- Toria's Inn

APARTMENT

- Independent Living Complex

ARENA

- Fisher River Sports Complex

CATERING

- Loretta Lynn's Restaurant & Catering

CHILD CARE

- Wee Care Day Care Centre

COMMUNITY HALL

- Fisher River Cree Nation Community Hall

CONVENIENCE STORE

- Pam's Country Convenience

DENTAL

- Fisher River Dental

ELECTRIC

- Fisher Electric

FIRE HALL

- Fisher River Fire Hall

FISHERIES/MARINE

- McBeth Fisheries

GAS STATION

- Hillary's Gas Bar

HAIR SALON

- Tracey's Hair Scene

HAULING SERVICE

- William Murdock's Trucking & Excavation

HEALTH CENTRE

- Fisher River Health Centre

MAINTENANCE

- Russell Mallett

ORGANIZATIONS

- Fisher River Board of Education
- Fisher River Child and Family Services
- Fisher River Cree Nation
- Fisher River Healing Centre
- Fisher River N.A.D.A.P (Alcohol & Drug Addictions Program)
- Intertribal Child & Family Service
- Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre
- Ochekwi'Sipi Economic Development Corporation
- Sports and Recreation Committee
- Youth Drop In Centr

PERSONAL CARE HOME

- Ochekwi-Sipi Personal Care Home

PLUMBING

- Nap's Plumbing & Septic Tank Service

POSTAL OUTLET

- Canada Post

RESTAURANT

- Loretta Lynn's Restaurant & Catering

SCHOOLS

- Charles Sinclair School
- Verna J. Kirkness Institute of Higher Learning

SEPTIC SERVICES

- Mike's Septic Tank Services
- Nap's Plumbing and Septic Tank Service

Links of Interest

Fisher River Cree Nation

www.fisherriver.com

Community Futures East Interlake

www.eastinterlake.com

Fisher River Human Resource Program

www.fisherriver.com/frhrp/

Charles Sinclair School

www.csschool.mb.ca/

Fisher River Daycare and Headstart Programs

<http://fisherriver.com/daycare/>

Leigh Cochrane Memorial Visitor's Centre

www.fisherriver.com/celebration/

Interlake Tourism Association

www.interlaketourism.com

Interlake Regional Health Authority

<http://www.irha.mb.ca/>

Eastern Interlake Planning District

www.interlakeplanning.com