



NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION SOCIÉTÉ DE GESTION DES DÉCHETS NUCLÉAIRES

Draft Community Profile

ENGLISH RIVER FIRST NATION, SASKATCHEWAN



APM-REP-06144-0047

OCTOBER 2013

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DRAFT
Community Profile
English River First Nation, SK

OCTOBER 2013



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LIST OF ACRONYMS

| | |
|--------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| AANDC | Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada |
| BWER | Boreal West Enterprise Region |
| CCNI | Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation |
| CD | Census Division |
| CLC | Community Liaison Committee |
| CMHC | Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation |
| CVMPP | Community Vitality Monitoring Partnership Process |
| DNDI | Des Nedhe Development Inc. |
| EQC | Environmental Quality Committee |
| ERFN | English River First Nation |
| IR | Indian Reserve |
| KYRHA | Keewatin Yatthé Regional Health Authority |
| LLRIB | Lac La Ronge Indian Band |
| MLTC | Meadow Lake Tribal Council |
| NAD | Northern Administration District |
| NCQ | Northern Career Quest |
| NHS | National Household Survey |
| NORTEP | Northern Teachers Education Program |
| NORPAC | Northern Professional Access College |
| NWMO | Nuclear Waste Management Organization |
| RAN | Representative Areas Network |
| RDI | Meadow Lake Tribal Council Resource Development LP |
| SERM | Saskatchewan Environment and Resource Management |
| TLE | Treaty Land Entitlement |
| SIAS | Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology |

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This community profile has been prepared as part of the English River First Nation's (ERFN's) participation in the Nuclear Waste Management Organization's (NWMO) *Learn More* program. This program is offered to communities interested in exploring and potentially hosting the Adaptive Phased Management (APM) Project, the deep geological repository and centre of expertise which is required as part of Canada's plan for the long-term management of used nuclear fuel. Participation in the *Learn More* program, including the preparation of a community profile, does not commit ERFN to future participation in the siting process or imply any agreement to host the APM Project on ERFN lands.

This document brings together information about the community, its history, its aspirations, and current conditions. The information contained in this report is not an assessment of any kind; instead it is intended to paint a picture of the community as it stands today. Such a picture can be a helpful starting point for community discussions about how future projects might be implemented in the community, and the extent to which a project might contribute to the well-being of the community over the long term, including the APM Project. The APM Project will only be implemented in a community that has reflected upon whether the project will contribute to community well-being and, after a series of detailed studies have been completed to confirm the safety and appropriateness of a site, has expressed an informed willingness to host the project. Over time, communities in the surrounding area will also need to become involved in the learning process.

This profile is organized to describe the characteristics of the community through five different perspectives or 'lenses':

- Human: Skills, knowledge and essential services supporting the well-being of the community;
- Economic: Monetary or financial resources supporting the well-being of the community;
- Infrastructure: Basic physical infrastructure supporting the well-being of the community;
- Social: Social and community activities in which people participate and the resources drawn upon to support well-being; and
- Natural environment: Nature and the natural environment important to well-being.

The characteristics of the community are referred to as "assets" throughout the report. This is intended to highlight their importance and pave the way for a broad and holistic discussion of how the community may be affected by the APM Project, or other large projects which the community may consider. This discussion of the characteristics of the community which support community life may also help the community identify other important aspects which should also be considered.

The information and data used to compile this profile was derived from a combination of sources, including:

- Publicly available documents and statistics;
- Data and information provided by the community; and
- Insights derived from discussion with the Community Liaison Committee and through interviews with community members.

Although this profile contains references to other communities within the region, these references are intended only as a means to round out the community profile and provide some context for discussion.

The NWMO *Learn More* program encourages collaboration and shared learning involving the NWMO and the community throughout all stages of reflection and decision-making. NWMO efforts to learn about and understand the community, its aspirations and current conditions will continue throughout the duration of the ERFN's involvement in the *Learn More* program.

This profile also includes Statistics Canada census data (collected at 5-year intervals, e.g., 2001, 2006, and 2011 [census and National Household Survey (NHS)¹]), as well as from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) community profiles². In some cases data are limited by the level of detail available (i.e., not all indicators are reported at the First Nation level; data may be rounded³ or suppressed by Statistics Canada due to small sample sizes) or the type of data collected in a given year. Census data may be limited by the relatively low participation rates in many Aboriginal communities, for various reasons. Members of First Nations living off-reserve are not reflected in census data for their home reserve/Nation. In some cases, supplementary information is available from other sources, including the engagement activities conducted for the Phase 1 Community Well-being Assessment. ERFN has provided data on total membership, on/off-reserve populations and age structure that has been compared with census data.

The Global Non-Response Rate for the 2011 NHS "...combines complete non-response (household) and partial non-response (question) into a single rate. The value of the GNR is presented to users. A smaller GNR indicates a lower risk of non-response bias and as a result, lower risk of inaccuracy. The threshold used for estimates' suppression is a GNR of 50% or more." The 2011 NHS GNR for various geographies considered in the profile are:

¹ Complementing the data collected by the census, the National Household Survey (NHS) is designed to provide information about people in Canada by their demographic, social and economic characteristics as well as provide information about the housing units in which they live. It is a voluntary survey (unlike the mandatory census). It should be noted that data captured in the 2011 NHS may be categorized differently than preceding census years (e.g. 1996, 2001, and 2006). The impact of this is particularly noticeable for data concerning mobility, education, industry, and occupation.

² AANDC 2006 census profile information is only for ERFN's 'on-reserve' population (665 in 2006).

³ Statistics Canada applies a confidentiality procedure of random rounding to all Census data to avoid the possibility of associating statistical data with any identifiable individual. With this method all data, including totals and margins are randomly rounded either up or down to a multiple of "5" or in some cases "10". As a result, the sum of a set of data may not add to the total, and percentages, which are calculated on rounded figures, do not necessarily add to 100%. The impact of this procedure is particularly noticeable on small counts. In effect, small numbers may lose their precision, and percentages calculated based on these numbers may not represent the proportion of the population indicated. In such cases, the percentages in a table may add to over and in some instances less than 100%, and the reader is advised to apply a cautionary note when interpreting the findings.

- Wapachewunak IR: – GNR 5.3%⁴
- La Plonge IR – GNR 13.6%⁵
- Hamlet of Patuanak – GNR 20.5%⁶
- Census Division 18 GNR 28.1%⁷
- Canada - 26.1%

Note: The Northern Hamlet of Patuanak and Wapachewunak Reserve 192D are located adjacent to one another; however, they are mutually exclusive as Census communities and governance structures. Residents of the hamlet are largely ERFN members and non-status Indians. Often, 'Patuanak' is used interchangeably to reference either the ERFN reserve of Wapachewunak or the Hamlet of Patuanak. In this profile document, 'Wapachewunak' will be used only with respect to reporting census data for Reserve 192D; 'Patuanak' will be used to refer to the reserve community, and 'Hamlet of Patuanak' will be used only in reference to the adjacent municipal entity. 'English River First Nation' refers to the collective of members on both the La Plonge and Wapachewunak reserves, those living on other reserves, and the off-reserve membership.

⁴<http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/nhs-enm/2011/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=CSD&Code1=4718814&Data=Count&SearchText=Pinehouse&SearchType=Begin&SearchPR=01&A1=All&B1=All&Custom=>

⁵<http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/nhs-enm/2011/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=CSD&Code1=4718807&Data=Count&SearchText=Pinehouse&SearchType=Begin&SearchPR=01&A1=All&B1=All&Custom=>

⁶<http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/nhs-enm/2011/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=CSD&Code1=4718069&Data=Count&SearchText=Pinehouse&SearchType=Begin&SearchPR=01&A1=All&B1=All&Custom=>

⁷<http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/nhs-enm/2011/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=CD&Code1=4718&Data=Count&SearchText=Pinehouse&SearchType=Begin&SearchPR=01&A1=All&B1=All&Custom=>

2.0 COMMUNITY PROFILE

2.1 OVERVIEW

2.1.1 LOCATION

The English River First Nation (ERFN) is located in northern Saskatchewan. The Dene people of ERFN live on-reserve at Patuanak or LaPlonge (near Beauval); off-reserve members are located in Île-à-la-Crosse, Beauval, Prince Albert, Saskatoon and other communities. A number of ERFN members live on other ERFN reserve lands (e.g. there are four homes at Sucker Point at the mouth of the La Plonge River near Lac Île-à-la-Crosse).

Note: The Hamlet of Patuanak and Wapachewunak Reserve 192D are located adjacent to one another; however, they are mutually exclusive as Census communities and governance structures. Residents of the Hamlet are largely ERFN members and non-status Indians. Often, 'Patuanak' is used interchangeably to reference either the Hamlet of Patuanak or the ERFN reserve of Wapachewunak. In this document, 'Wapachewunak' will be used only with respect to reporting census data for Reserve 192D (which is under federal jurisdiction); 'Patuanak' will be used to refer to the reserve community, and 'Hamlet of Patuanak' (which is under provincial jurisdiction) will be used only in reference to the adjacent municipal entity. 'English River First Nation' refers to the collective of members on both the La Plonge and Wapachewunak reserves, those living on other reserves, and the off-reserve membership.



The ERFN is located in Saskatchewan's Northern Administration District (NAD –described in more detail in Section 3.1.1), and the community of Patuanak is located at 55° 55' 14" N latitude⁸. As shown in Figure 1, Patuanak (and the adjacent Northern Hamlet of Patuanak, originally settled by non-Treaty /non-status Indians) is located at the terminus of an all-weather gravel road (Highway 918), approximately 90 km from the La Plonge reserve and 97 km north of the Northern Village of Beauval (located at the junction of Highways 165 and 918). Patuanak is located on a peninsula of land between Lac Île-à-la-Crosse to the west and Shagwenaw Lake to the east, which are linked by the Churchill River. Patuanak is some distance by road from centres such as Île-à-la-Crosse (181 km), Meadow Lake (246 km), Prince Albert (406 km), and Saskatoon (506 km).

The ERFN is a Treaty 10 signatory and member of the Meadow Lake Tribal Council (MLTC). Historically, the families now located in Patuanak and La Plonge lived a traditional lifestyle down river at Primeau Lake, Knee Lake, and Dipper Lake, and still continue long-standing traditions linked to the land.

A map of Northern Saskatchewan, showing additional information (including Treaty 10 boundaries) and more detail about the area surrounding Patuanak and ERFN reserve lands, is included in Appendix B.

⁸ Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. 2008. *Geography: English River First Nation*. Website, retrieved May 2012. http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/FNP/Main/Search/FNGeography.aspx?BAND_NUMBER=400&lang=eng

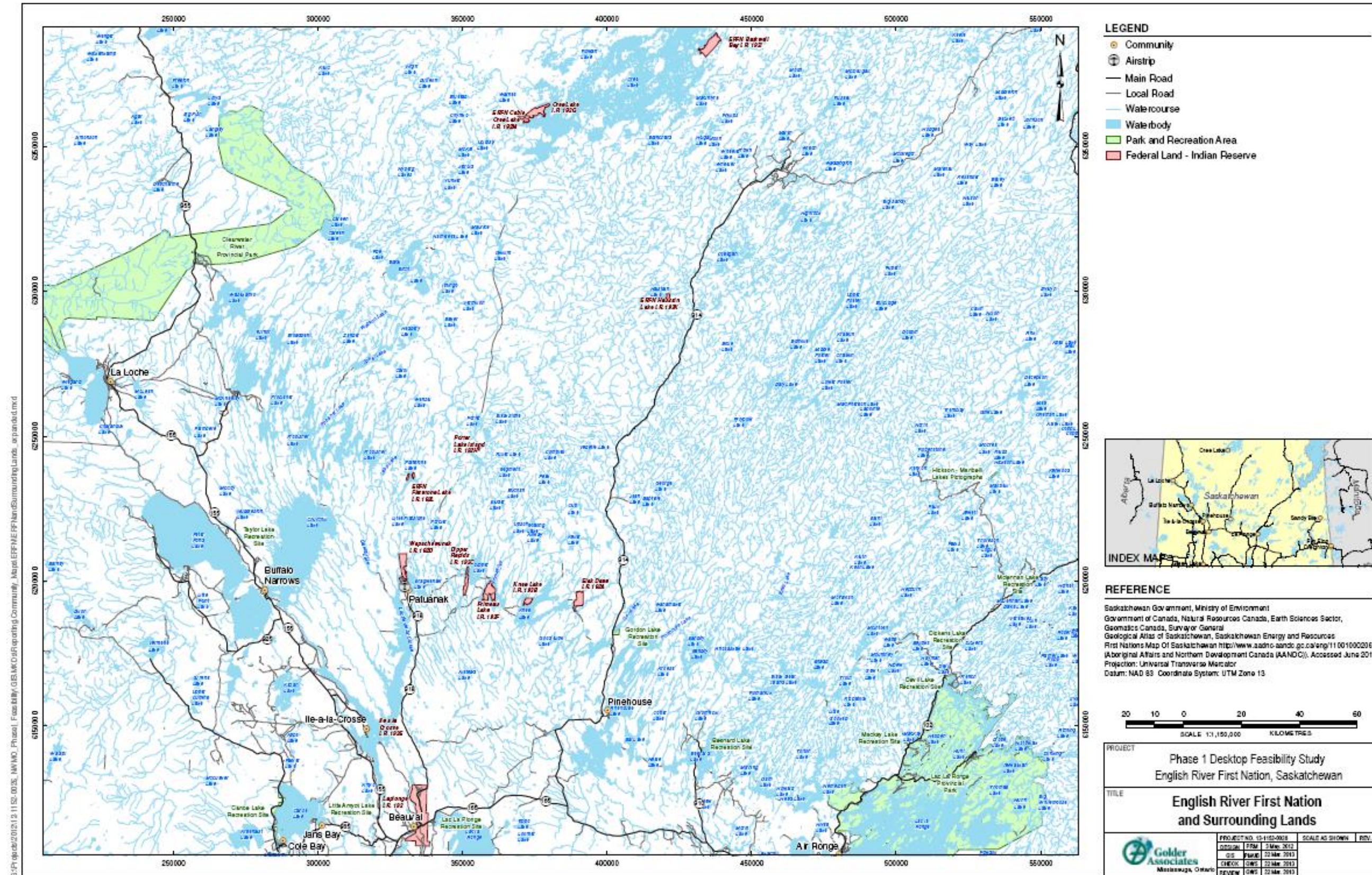


Figure 1: English River First Nation and Area
 Source: Golder Associates. 2013.

2.1.2 LAND SIZE AND USES

In 1992, the federal and provincial governments completed the Treaty Land Entitlement (or TLE) Framework Agreement with Saskatchewan First Nations. ERFN has taken the more than \$10 million they received in their settlement to set aside over 20,878 hectares combined⁹. That total includes a 137-acre parcel just south of Saskatoon—English River's first urban reserve. In total, there are 18 individual ERFN reserves (several of these in the final stages of completion), although they have not yet completed their TLE process¹⁰. ERFN reserve lands are listed in Table 1 below, and shown above in Figure 1 and in the map in Appendix B (with the exception of the Grasswood reserve, the urban reserve located at the southern edge of Saskatoon, and several parcels only recently acquired). The Wapachewunak reserve has been expanded to include additional lands across the river from the main reserve (accessible by the Willow Heart bridge, these lands are to be used for additional housing and a new landfill and lagoon; there is also a significant aggregate deposit). Lands currently owned by the Catholic Church on-reserve at Patuanak are in the process of becoming reserve lands (the aged St. Louis Church is being removed, and will be replaced by a new church in the near future).

Table 1: English River First Nation Reserve Lands

| English River First Nation Reserve Lands | |
|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Cree Lake - Cable Bay 192M | Île-à-la-Crosse 192E |
| Cree Lake – Barkwell Bay 192I | Knee Lake 192B |
| Cree Lake 192G | La Plonge 192 |
| Dipper Rapids 192C | Porter Lake Island 192H |
| Elak Dase 192A | Primeau Lake 192F |
| Flatstone Lake 192L | Wapachewunak 192D |
| Haultain Lake 192K | Grasswood 192J – Saskatoon Urban Reserve |
| Leaf Rapids 192P | Mawdsley Lake (near the Haultain Lake Reserve; in final stages of registration/creation) |
| Forks-Reserve Land Gina's 192O | Slush Lake #2 (in final stages of registration/creation) |

Source: Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. English River First Nation Community Profile, 2006; ERFN personal communication July 2013.

The two most populated reserves are Wapachewunak (total land area of 19.48 km²,¹¹ or 1967 hectares¹²) and La Plonge (total land area of 91.22 km² or 9487.20 hectares). A number of ERFN members live on other ERFN reserve lands (e.g. there are four homes at Sucker Point at the mouth of the La Plonge River near Lac Île-à-la-Crosse).

⁹ Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. 2008. *Community Profiles*. http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/FNP/Main/Search/FNReserves.aspx?BAND_NUMBER=400&lang=eng

¹⁰ Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. 2008. *Reserves/Settlements/Villages*. Website, retrieved May 2012. http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/FNP/Main/Search/FNReserves.aspx?BAND_NUMBER=400&lang=eng. Several of the more recent reserve acquisitions are not yet on the AANDC website. ERFN's TLE process is to be completed by 2022.

¹¹ Statistics Canada. 2012. *Wapachewunak 192D, Saskatchewan (Code 4718814) and Division No. 18, Saskatchewan (Code 4718)* (table). *Census Profile*. 2011 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-XWE. Ottawa. Released May 29, 2012. <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E> (accessed August 6, 2012).

¹² http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/FNP/Main/Search/FNReserves.aspx?BAND_NUMBER=400&lang=eng

The Hamlet of Patuanak (sited adjacent to the Wapachewunak Reserve) has a total land area of 1.34 km²¹³.

Much of the land in the areas surrounding ERFN reserve lands is provincial Crown land, some of which is privately leased.

Additional information on land uses is provided in other sections of the profile (e.g., Sections 2.3.1.4 (tourism), 2.4.1.1 (land use), 2.6.1.1 (parks and protected areas), and 2.6.1.2 (natural areas/features of significance)).



2.1.3 VISION AND STRATEGIC PLAN

The ERFN has the following Mission Statement:

“English River First Nation will preserve and protect English River First Nation customs and traditions. It will preserve and promote the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual values while it leads us into the future with a holistic and respectful mindset of a prospering nation”¹⁴.

In 1986, UMA Engineering prepared a community plan for Patuanak; some of the concepts in the plan are being implemented today¹⁵. In addition, a five-year plan for Des Nedhe Development Inc. (DNDI), Tron Power and for the community has been prepared (approximate date early 2011), noting actions for both Patuanak and La Plonge, as well as for DNDI¹⁶. The 5-year plans are periodically provided by DNDI every along with budget forecasts.

More recently, the current Chief and Council have been conducting strategic planning activities and have further defined a number of priorities (these build on those identified in the five-year plan):

- Cell coverage in Patuanak (in service date projected for December 2013)
- Housing (e.g. establishment of housing board; review housing policy; inventory existing units; education re: home ownership; A housing budget has also been established for new housing and upgrade/renovations of existing units)
- Communications (e.g. community newsletter; updated website)
- Recreation – youth and elders in particular (e.g. Friday community gym; family skating Sundays; monthly community fundraising events; snowmobile club; bi-weekly Wednesday night workshops in Patuanak and LaPlonge)
- Increased emphasis on education –youth and adults - pre-school, elementary, high school, and post-secondary
- New fire hall

¹³ Statistics Canada. 2012. *Patuanak, Saskatchewan (Code 4718069) and Division No. 18, Saskatchewan (Code 4718) (table). Census Profile. 2011 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-XWE. Ottawa. Released May 29, 2012.* <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E> (accessed August 6, 2012).

¹⁴ English River First Nation. (n.d.). Website, retrieved May 2012. <http://erfn.net/index.php>

¹⁵ UMA Engineering Ltd. February 1986. *Patuanak Planning Study*. Prepared for the Northern Hamlet of Patuanak, and the Planning Branch of Saskatchewan Urban Affairs. Provided by ERFN August 2012.

¹⁶ Personal communication from, Tron Power, September 2012.

- New band office
- Arena upgrades
- New church to replace the existing St. Louis Roman Catholic Church building (to be built in 2013)

In addition, ERFN is undertaking a community sustainability visioning exercise. A community survey was conducted in the fall of 2012¹⁷, and a preliminary set of values have been developed based on the results¹⁸:

1. *Our Traditional Way of Life, Skills and Language* (Culture)
2. *Economic Prosperity: Better Jobs, Stronger Businesses* (Economy)
3. *Education and Training* (Building Capacity)
4. *Respecting and Protecting the Land* (Environment)
5. *Healthy and Happy Individuals, Families and Communities* (Wellness)
6. *Infrastructure*
7. *Working Together/ Team Work* (Unity)

These are consistent with, and build upon, the previously developed mission statement. The visioning exercise is targeted for completion in fall 2013.

2.2 HUMAN ASSETS

2.2.1 HUMAN ASSET INDICATORS

The Human Assets within a community include the skills and knowledge inherent in a community and the ability of a community to provide its residents with access to other skills, knowledge and essential services that are fundamental to maintaining community well-being, quality of life or a desired standard of living. The specific indicators within the Human Assets category include:

- Population Size and Demographics;
- Skills and Labour;
- Education;
- Health and Safety Facilities and Services.

These indicators are described in this section, within the context of the human well-being of the ERFN.

2.2.1.1 POPULATION SIZE AND DEMOGRAPHICS

Population Size

Table 2 shows the total registered ERFN population as 1471 (June 2013): 732 registered as living on their own reserves; 41 living on other non-ERFN reserves; and 707 living off reserve¹⁹. ERFN has noted that 152 members live on the La Plonge reserve, and 580 live in Wapachewunak.

¹⁷ English River First Nation. May 2013. *Community Sustainability Vision Survey Results*.

http://www.erfn.ca/Media/visioning_survey.pdf

¹⁸ English River First Nation. 2013. <http://www.erfn.ca/csvp.html>

¹⁹ Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. *Registered Population; English River First Nation*. Website; retrieved May 2012. http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/FNP/Main/Search/FNRegPopulation.aspx?BAND_NUMBER=400&lang=eng

Table 2: Total Registered Population English River First Nation, June 2013

| Residency | # of People |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Total Population On Own Reserve | 732 |
| Total Population On Other Reserve | 41 |
| Total Population Off Reserve | 707 |
| Total Registered Population | 1,480 |

Source: Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. Registered Population; English River First Nation. Website; retrieved July 2012. http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/FNP/Main/Search/FNRegPopulation.aspx?BAND_NUMBER=400&lang=eng

As reported by ERFN data shown in Figure 2 and Table 3, between 2004 and 2013 ERFN’s total membership increased from 1,222 to 1,480 (258 people, or 21%). The ERFN on-reserve population also increased between 2004 and 2011, but has begun to decline. The off-reserve population increased from 575 to 707 members between 2004 and 2013.

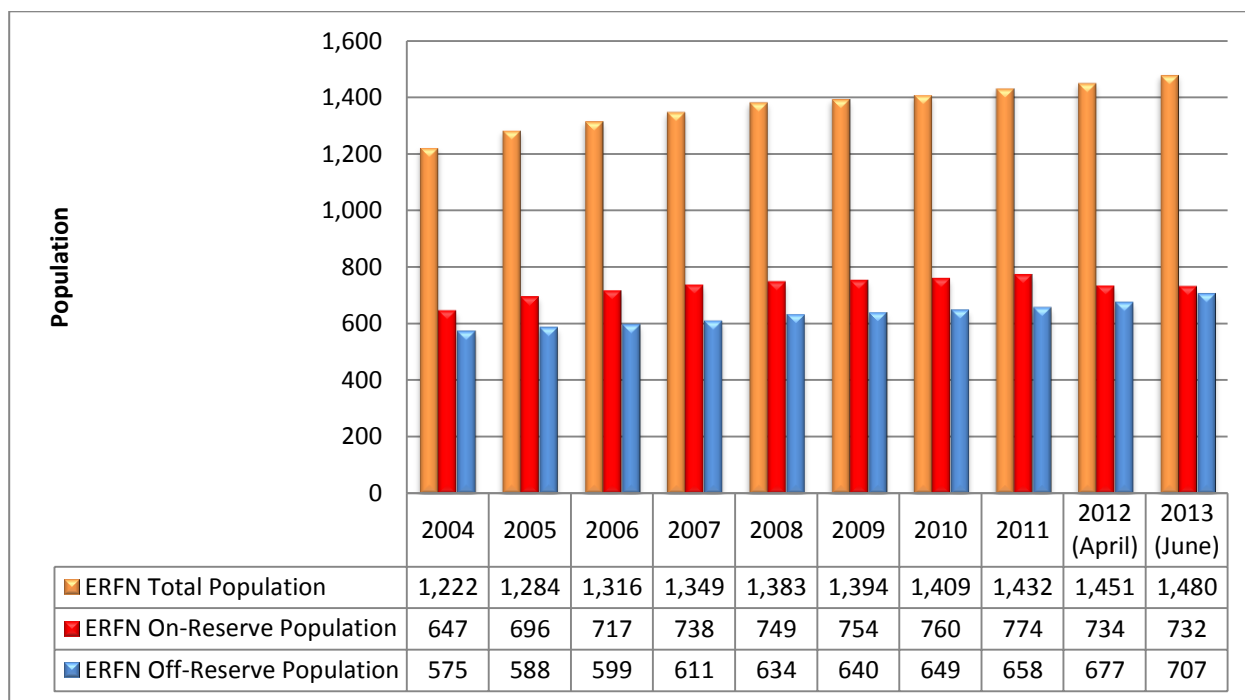


Figure 2: ERFN Total Population/Membership Trends, 2004-2013

Source: Data for 2004-2011 provided to DPRA by ERFN July 15, 2013. April 2012 and June 2013 population data from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, Aboriginal Community Profiles.

Statistics Canada census data does not reflect the ERFN population on-reserve. Census data summarized in Table 3 indicates that between 2006 and 2011 both Wapachewunak and La Plonge reserves experienced declines in population, while the population in northern Saskatchewan as a whole (Census Division 18/CD 18²⁰)

²⁰ Census Division 18 boundaries coincide with that of the Northern Administrative District/NAD or ‘northern Saskatchewan’).

grew by 7.8% and the province increased by 6.7%²¹. This is inconsistent with data on the registered population as reported by ERFN (see Figure 2 above) to AANDC, which shows that the ERFN 'on-reserve population' was 774 in 2011 –significantly higher (29.6%) than the total on-reserve population of 597 reported in the 2011 census. According to census data, the neighbouring Northern Hamlet of Patuanak also experienced a large decline in population over the period 2006 to 2011. The registered population data – both total membership, on on-reserve population - indicates a growth rate over the period of 2006 to 2011 that is similar to CD 18 as a whole, and slightly higher than that for the province.

Between 2001 and 2006, census data indicated that ERFN's on-reserve population (Wapachewunak and LaPlonge) experienced a 20.9% increase in population (perhaps due at least in part to enactment of Bill C-31 in 1985, which restored band membership to women who lost their status by marrying non-First Nations men, increasing birth rates, increased availability of housing, or a higher census participation rate), while northern Saskatchewan experienced an increase of 5.9% and Saskatchewan as a whole experienced a 1.1% decline.

²¹ Reasons may relate to individuals leaving the reserve for various reasons, changes in census participation rates, or other variables.

Table 3: ERFN, Reserves and Hamlet Population 2001 - 2011 and ERFN Registered Population 2013

| Community | 1996 | 2001 | 2006 | 2011 | June 2013 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| ERFN Registered Membership (on and off-reserve) | N/A | N/A | 1316 | 1432 (+8.8%) | 1480 (+3.4%) |
| ERFN on-reserve population (as per membership data) | N/A | N/A | 717 | 774 (+7.9%) | 732 (-5.4%) ²² |
| ERFN (own-reserve population) – Statistics Canada Census | N/A | 550 ²³ | 665 ²⁴ (+20.9%) | 597 (-13.5% ²⁵) | N/A |
| Wapachewunak – Statistics Canada Census | 436 (+3.6%) | 434 (-0.5%) | 526 (+21.2%) | 482 (-8.4%) | 580 ²⁶ |
| La Plonge – Statistics Canada Census | 123 (+18.3%) | 120 (-2.4%) | 139 (+15.8%) | 115 (-17.3%) | 152 |
| Hamlet of Patuanak – Statistics Canada Census | 89 | 72 (-19.1%) | 84 (+16.7%) | 64 (-23.8%) | N/A |
| Census Division 18 (CD 18, Northern Saskatchewan) ²⁷ | 31,104 | 32,029 (+3.0%) | 33,919 (+5.9%) | 36,557 (+7.8%) | N/A |
| Saskatchewan | 990,237 | 978,933 (-1.1%) | 968,157 (-1.1%) | 1,033,381 (+6.7%) | N/A |

Source: Statistics Canada Community Profiles, 2001, 2006, 2011. AANDC Community Profile (ERFN 2006 census figures only). 2006, 2011 and 2013 ERFN registered memberships and on-reserve population provided by ERFN July 15, 2013.

²² The total population on-reserve in June 2013 is taken from AANDC http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/FNRegPopulation.aspx?BAND_NUMBER=400&lang=eng, and is based on the registered population under the *Indian Act*.

²³ As reported by AANDC based on previous 2001 population presented in 2006 census data http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/FNP/Main/Search/FNPopulation.aspx?BAND_NUMBER=400&lang=eng.

²⁴ As reported by AANDC based on 2006 census data. http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/FNP/Main/Search/FNPopulation.aspx?BAND_NUMBER=400&lang=eng

²⁵ 597 is the total of Wapachewunak and La Plonge 2011 census populations, 135 people less than the June 2013 registered ERFN population living on-own-reserve in June 2013.

²⁶ The 2013 on-reserve population information for La Plonge and Wapachewunak was obtained during discussions with an ERFN staff member June 2013.

²⁷ The Northern Administration District boundaries coincide with Statistics Canada's Census Division 18 (CD 18) boundaries, allowing for ready collection and analysis of regional data that can be compared with both ERFN and Saskatchewan as a whole.

Age Structure

Figure 3 shows the age structure of the total ERFN membership (on and off-reserve) in 2006 and 2011, which demonstrates an aging trend.

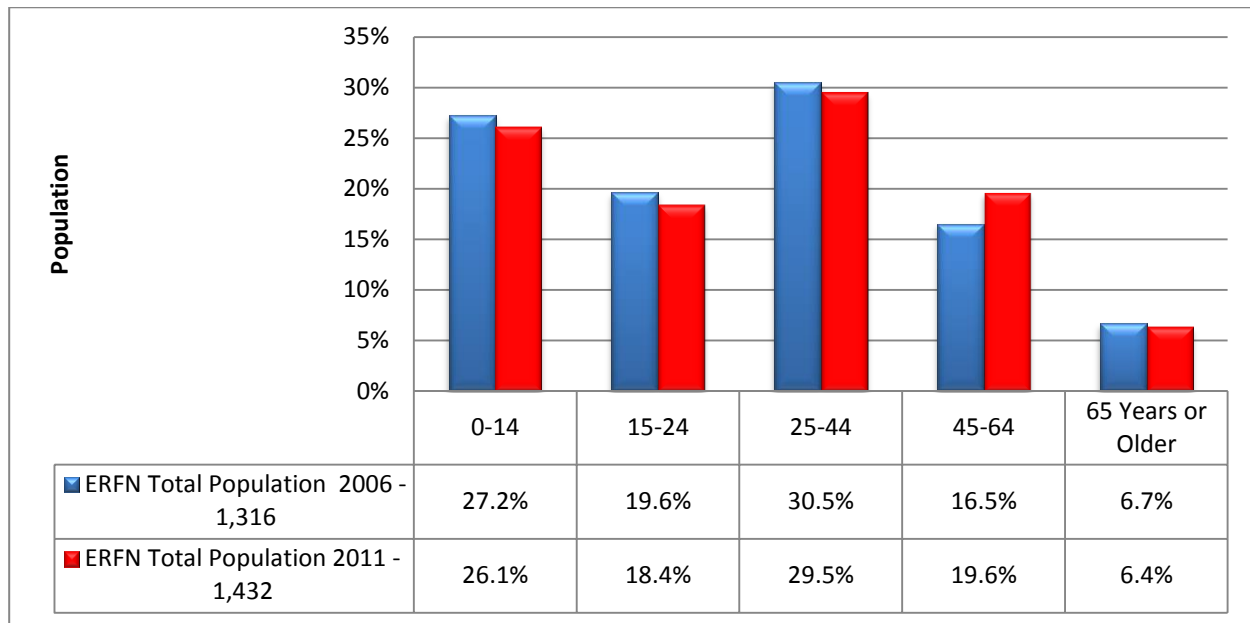


Figure 3: ERFN Total Population by Age Category; 2006 and 2011 Comparison

Source: ERFN Total Population Data provided to DPRA by ERFN July 15, 2013.

As shown in Figure 4, 2011 census data indicate that the proportion of the population between the ages of 0-14 in Wapachewunak was 32.2% (a slight increase from 30.4% in 2006). The proportion of La Plonge’s population between the ages of 0-14 in 2011 was 26% (a decrease from 37% in 2006). For CD 18, the corresponding figure is 32.7% (a small decrease from 2006); for Saskatchewan the figure is 19.1% (similar to 19.3% in 2006). The data from ERFN’s registered membership is shown in Figure 4 as ‘ERFN Total Population’. In 2011, the ERFN membership as a whole, the Wapachewunak and La Plonge reserves, and CD 18 have a larger proportion of the population aged 0-14 than Saskatchewan. Proportionately more of the population aged 65 or older lives in Wapachewunak than live off-reserve or in La Plonge. The province of Saskatchewan has a greater proportion of the population age 65 and over, compared to CD 18 and ERFN’s total membership and on-reserve populations.

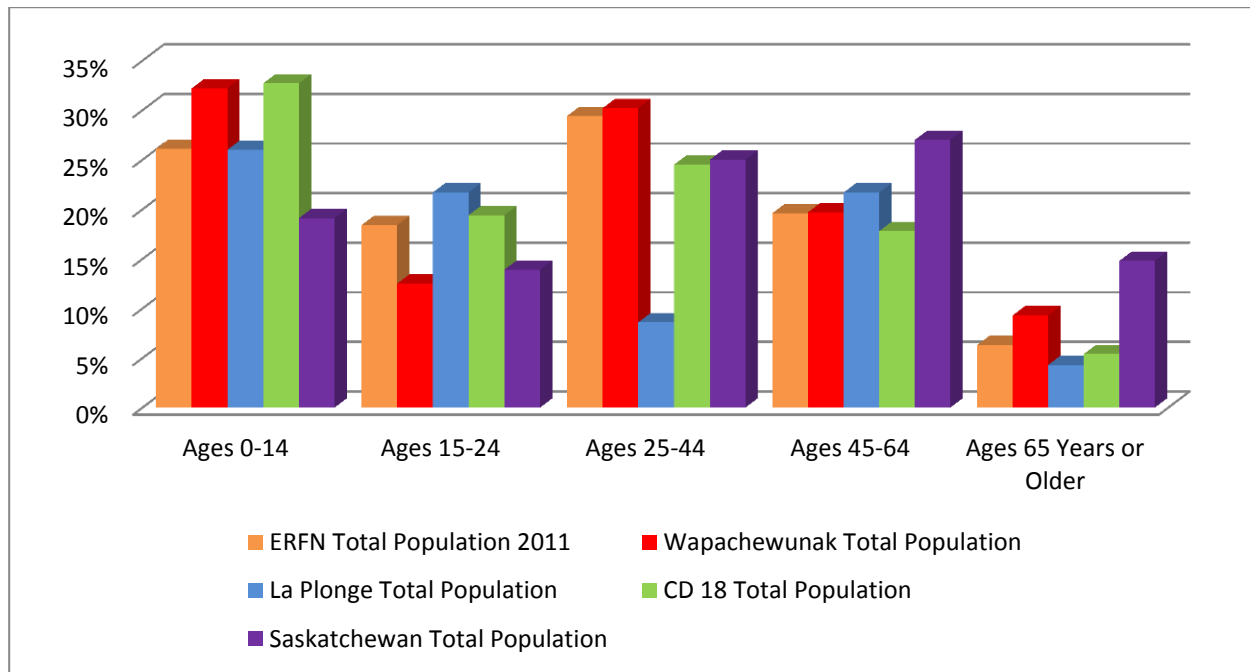


Figure 4: Population by Age Category for ERFN, ERFN Reserves, CD18 and Saskatchewan, 2011

Source: ERFN Total Population Data provided to DPRA by ERFN July 15, 2013. All other data - Statistics Canada. 2011. Community Profiles.

Census data indicate that overall, in 2006 the ERFN communities of Wapachewunak and La Plonge (and northern Saskatchewan as a whole [CD 18]) had a relatively young population compared to Saskatchewan as a whole, as shown in Figure 5. In 2006, 27.6% of the ERFN membership was between the ages of 0-14 (corresponding figures for CD 18 were 33.9%, and 19.3% for Saskatchewan).

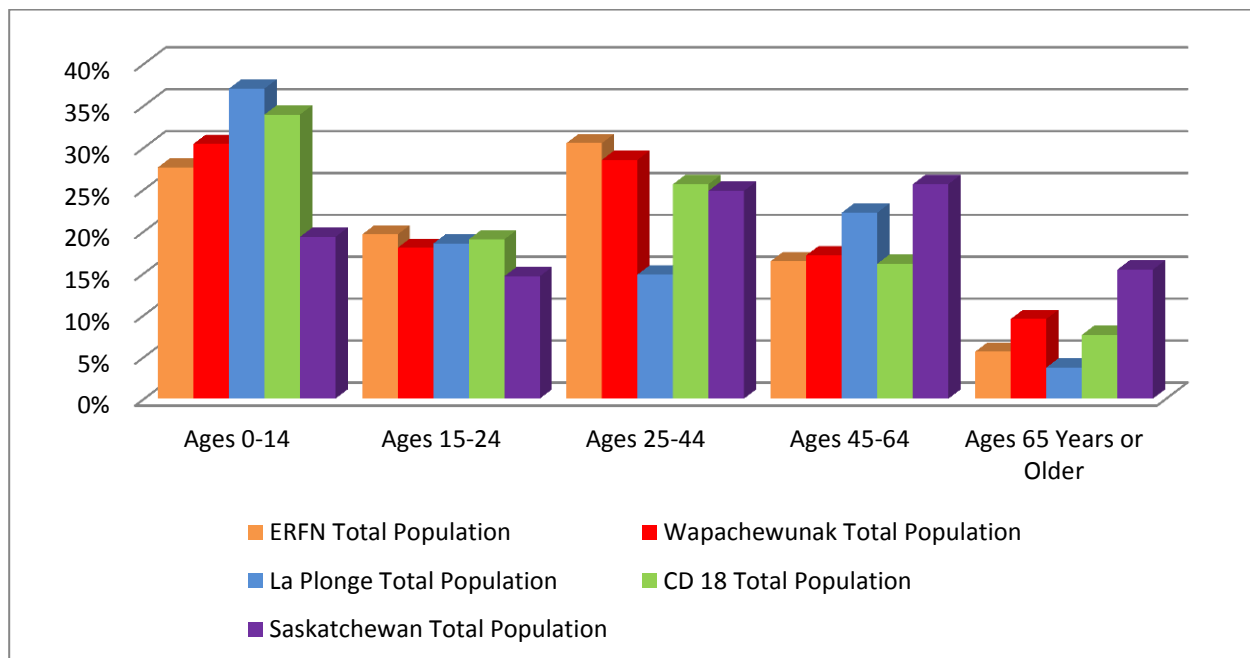


Figure 5: Population by Age Category for ERFN, ERFN Reserves, CD18 and Saskatchewan, 2006

Source: ERFN Total Population Data provided to DPRA by ERFN July 15, 2013. All other data - Statistics Canada. 2006. Community Profiles.

Median Age

Census data indicates that in 2011, the ERFN community of Wapachewunak had a median age of 32.8, while La Plonge had a median age of 28.5 – both showing an increase from 2006²⁸. In 2011, the median age in CD 18 increased only slightly to 23.7, while Saskatchewan marginally decreased to 38.2. The median age of ERFN on-reserve members was 26.1 in 2006 (compared to 22.9 in CD 18 and 38.7 in Saskatchewan)²⁹. The median age in 2006 was 26.8 in Wapachewunak, and 23.8 in La Plonge.

Population Mobility

In 2011 a greater proportion of the population in Wapachewunak and La Plonge did not move in the last year compared to 2006 (Figure 6). Generally, Wapachewunak residents were less likely to have moved in the last year than those in La Plonge or CD18. Residents of Wapachewunak and La Plonge were less likely to have moved in the last five years than those in CD 18 or Saskatchewan as a whole (Figure 7).

Overall, the mobility status for ERFN’s on-reserve population in 2006 demonstrated a fairly stable population in terms of mobility. As shown in Figure 6, 89% of ERFN on-reserve members lived at the same address one year ago, and approximately 76% lived at the same address five years ago. The one-year mobility status for the ERFN on-reserve population was slightly higher/more stable than for CD 18 (86.8%) or Saskatchewan as a whole (85.7%). The five-year mobility status for ERFN on-reserve members (76.2%) was higher/more stable than for CD 18 (70.1%) or Saskatchewan as a whole (63.8%) (Figure 7).

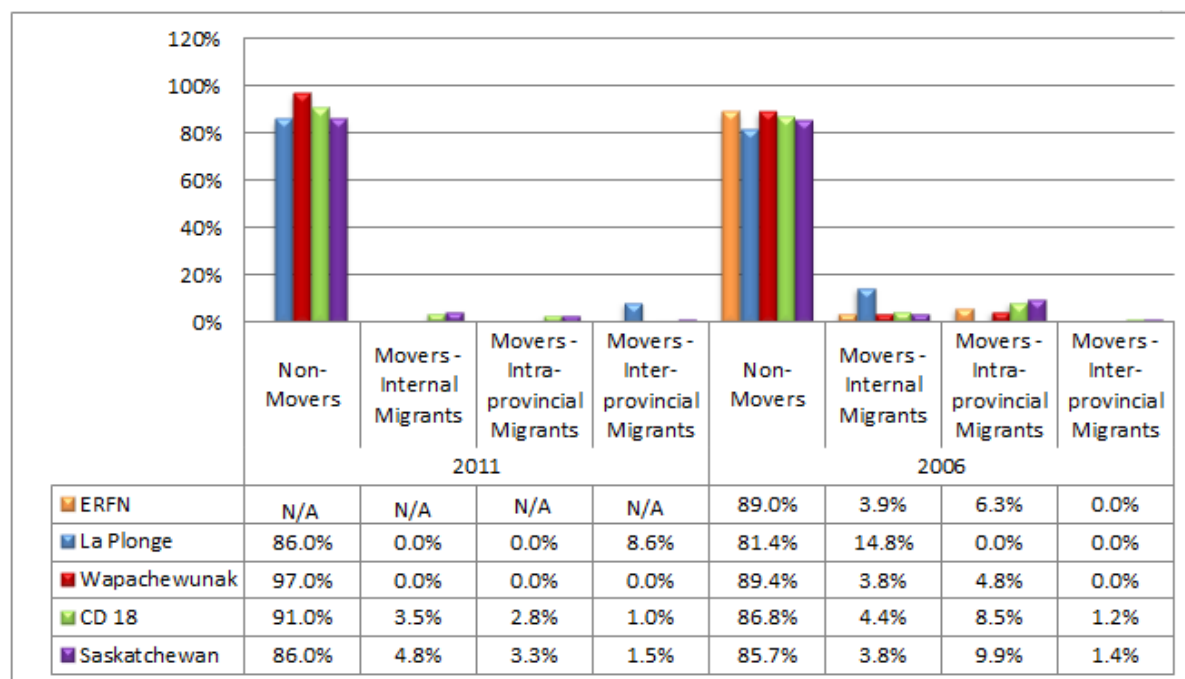


Figure 6: Mobility Status 1 Year Ago, 2011 & 2006

Source: Statistics Canada. 2013. National Household Survey (NHS) Profiles; Statistics Canada. 2006 Community Profiles. (ERFN data not available in 2011 NHS).

²⁸ Statistics Canada. 2012. *Wapachewunak 192D, Saskatchewan (Code 4718814) and Division No. 18, Saskatchewan (Code 4718)* (table). *Census Profile*. 2011 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-XWE. Ottawa. Released May 29, 2012. <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E> (accessed August 9, 2012).

²⁹ Statistics Canada 2006 community profiles and http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/FNP/Main/Search/FNPPopulation.aspx?BAND_NUMBER=400&lang=eng.

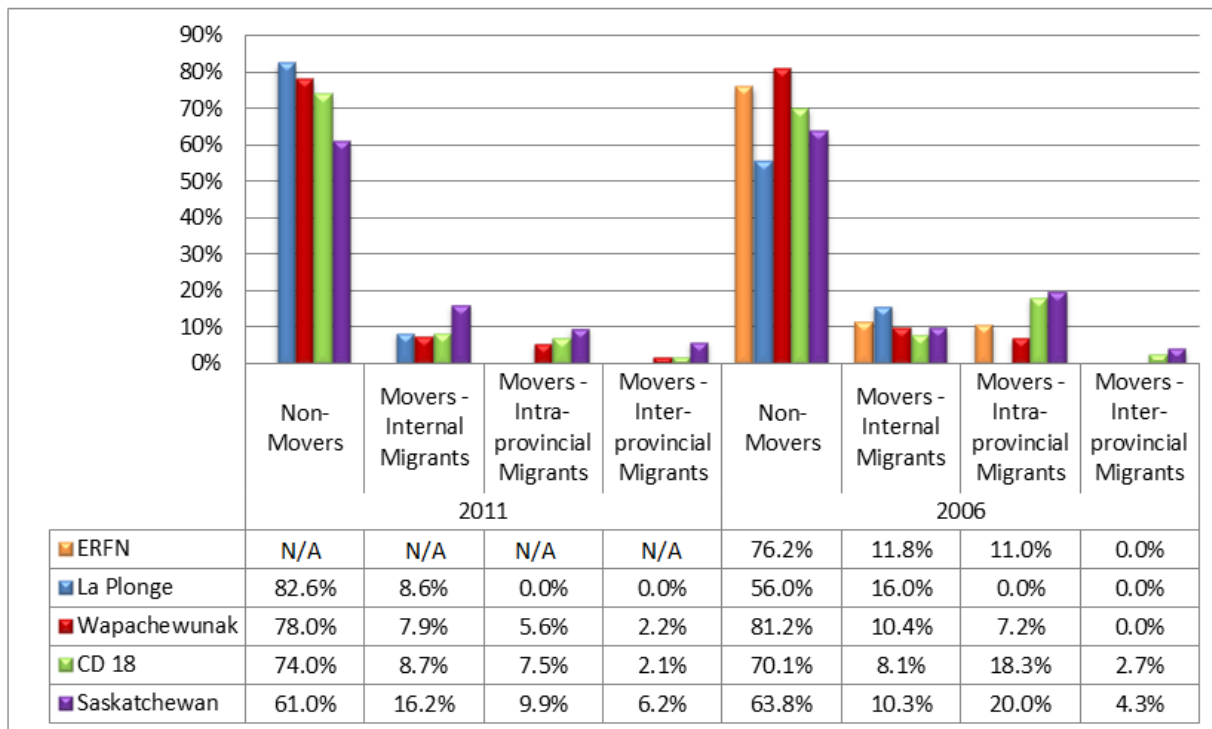


Figure 7: Mobility Status 5 Years Ago, 2011 & 2006

Source: Statistics Canada. 2013. National Household Survey (NHS) Profiles; Statistics Canada. 2006 Community Profiles. (ERFN data not available in 2011 NHS).

2.2.1.2 SKILLS AND LABOUR

Labour Force Participation

As shown in Figure 8, in 2006, the ERFN on-reserve population had a labour force participation rate of 38.7%, below the 50.4% regional and 68.4% provincial rates³⁰. Participation in the labour force increased in 2011 compared to 2006 for both Wapachewunak (43.8%) and La Plonge (50.0%), similar to the rate for CD 18 (46.7%) but lower than for Saskatchewan (69.2%).

The size of the labour force in Wapachewunak increased from 130 in 2006 to 160 in 2011; in La Plonge the labour force went from 45 in 2006 to 40 in 2011.

³⁰ http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/FNP/Main/Search/FNWorkforce.aspx?BAND_NUMBER=400&lang=eng

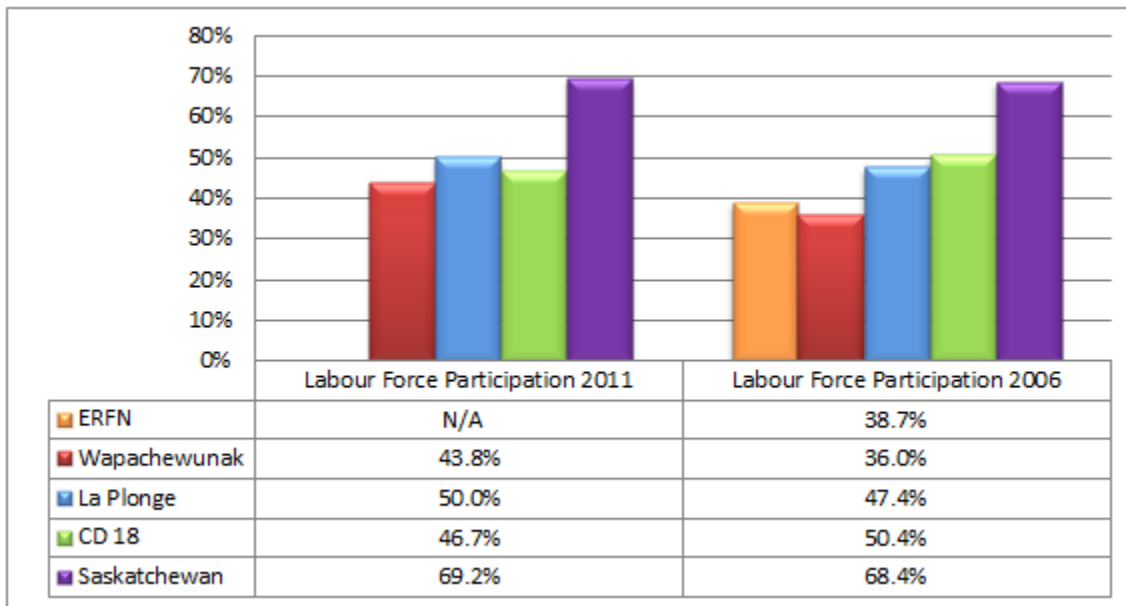


Figure 8: Labour Force Participation Rate, 2011 & 2006

Source: Statistics Canada. 2013. 2011 National Household Survey (NHS) Profiles (Participation rate is based on “Total Population aged 15 years and over by Labour Force Status” and the ‘In the Labour Force’ populations); Statistics Canada. 2006. Aboriginal Population Profiles.

Labour Force by Occupation

It is noted that the Labour Force occupation categories used for the census by Statistics Canada are slightly different between 2006 and 2011. Figure 9 shows the labour force by occupation for 2011 for Wapachewunak, La Plonge, CD 18 and Saskatchewan. A higher proportion of the labour force in Wapachewunak is employed in natural resources and related occupations than in La Plonge, CD 18 or Saskatchewan. Census data for Wapachewunak indicates lower levels of employment in trades and related occupations in 2011 compared to 2006 (Figure 10). Both La Plonge and Wapachewunak demonstrate higher proportions working in management and business/finance/administration occupations in 2011 than in 2006. However, neither community reported ‘health’ or ‘art/culture/sport’ occupations in 2011, although these were reported in 2006 for ERFN’s on-reserve population. Census data indicates a decline in the proportion of trades and related occupations between 2006 and 2011 for the ERFN’s on-reserve population.

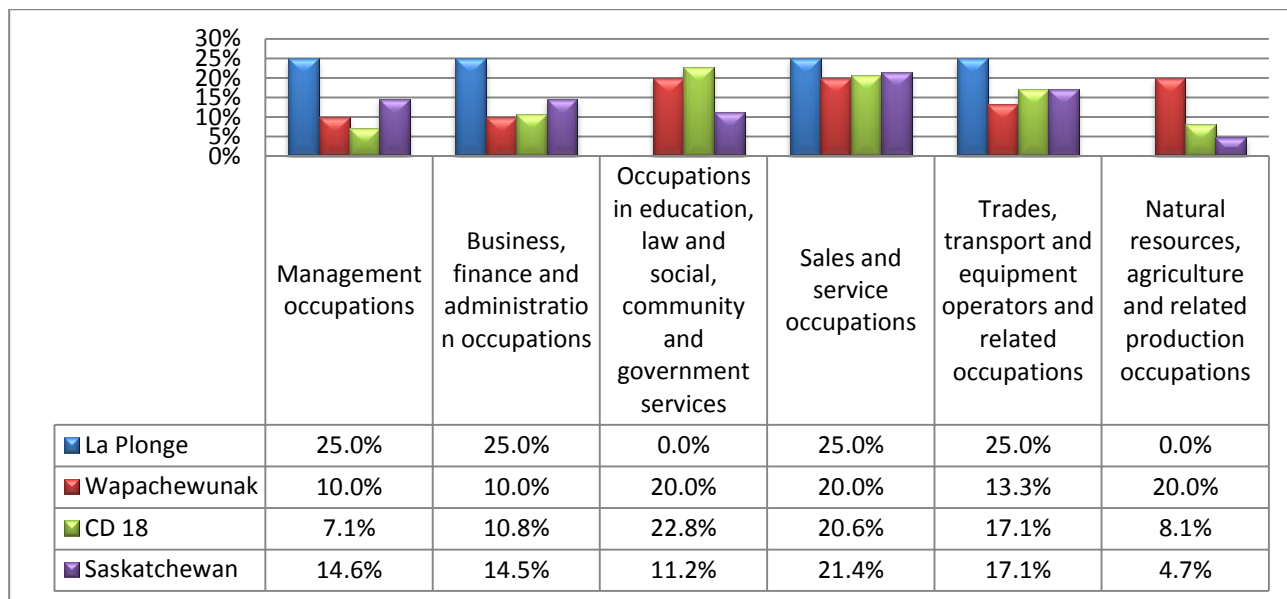


Figure 9: Labour Force by Occupation, 2011

Source: Statistics Canada. 2013. National Household Survey (NHS) Profiles. Notes: All occupation categories in Wapachewunak and La Plonge are shown in the figure (with the exception of 6.6% of Wapachewunak labour force in occupations ‘not applicable’; therefore percentages in figure do not add to 100%). Both CD 18 and Saskatchewan have members of the labour force in additional occupations; as such the percentages do not add to 100%.

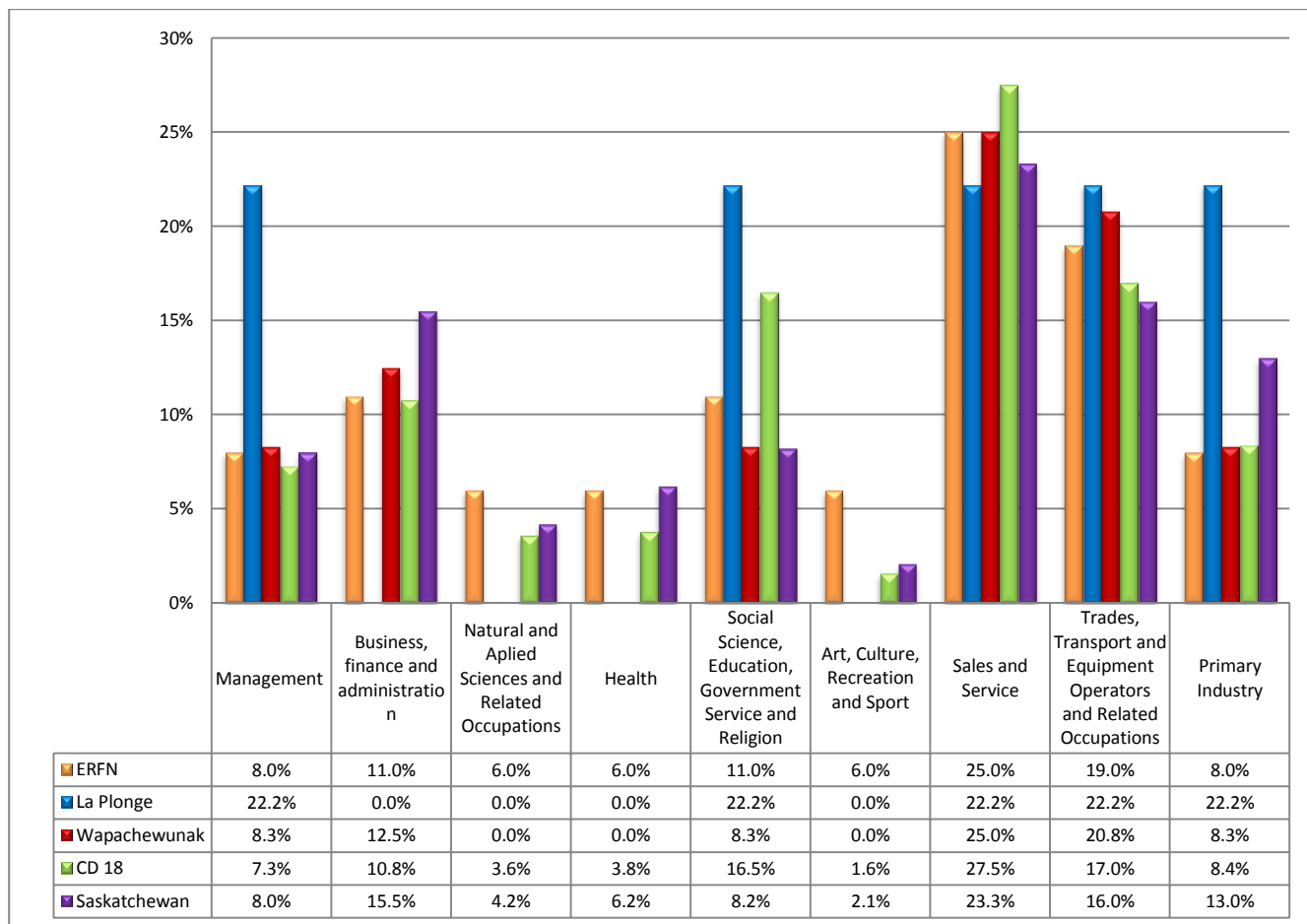


Figure 10: Labour Force by Occupation, 2006

Source: Statistics Canada 2006 Aboriginal Population Profiles. Statistics Canada. 2006 Community Profiles. Both CD 18 and Saskatchewan have members of the labour force in additional occupations; as such the percentages do not add to 100%.

Labour Force by Industry

It is noted that the Labour Force industry categories used by Statistics Canada are slightly different between 2006 and 2011. As shown in Figure 11, in 2011 a greater proportion of the labour force in La Plonge and Wapachewunak are employed in mining (quarrying, oil and gas extraction) and public administration than the labour force for CD 18 or Saskatchewan. Relatively fewer work in retail or health and social assistance industries.

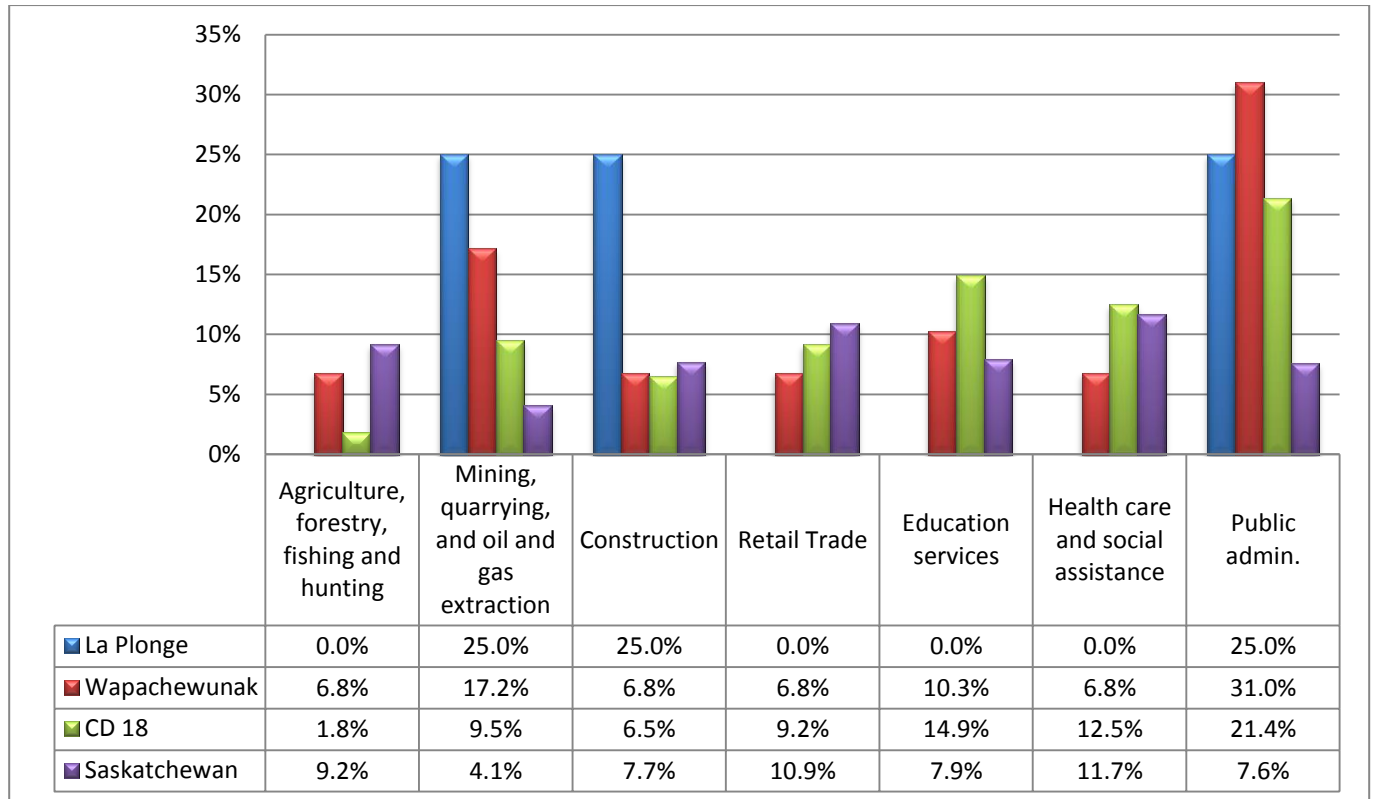


Figure 11: Labour Force by Industry, 2011

Source: Statistics Canada. 2013. National Household Survey (NHS) Profiles. Notes: The % for La Plonge does not add to 100%, due to rounding of original data by Statistics Canada. For Wapachewunak, 6.6% of labour force in industries was employed in 'industry-not applicable'; therefore percentages in figure do not add to 100%. Both CD 18 and Saskatchewan have members of the labour force in additional industries; as such the percentages do not add to 100%.

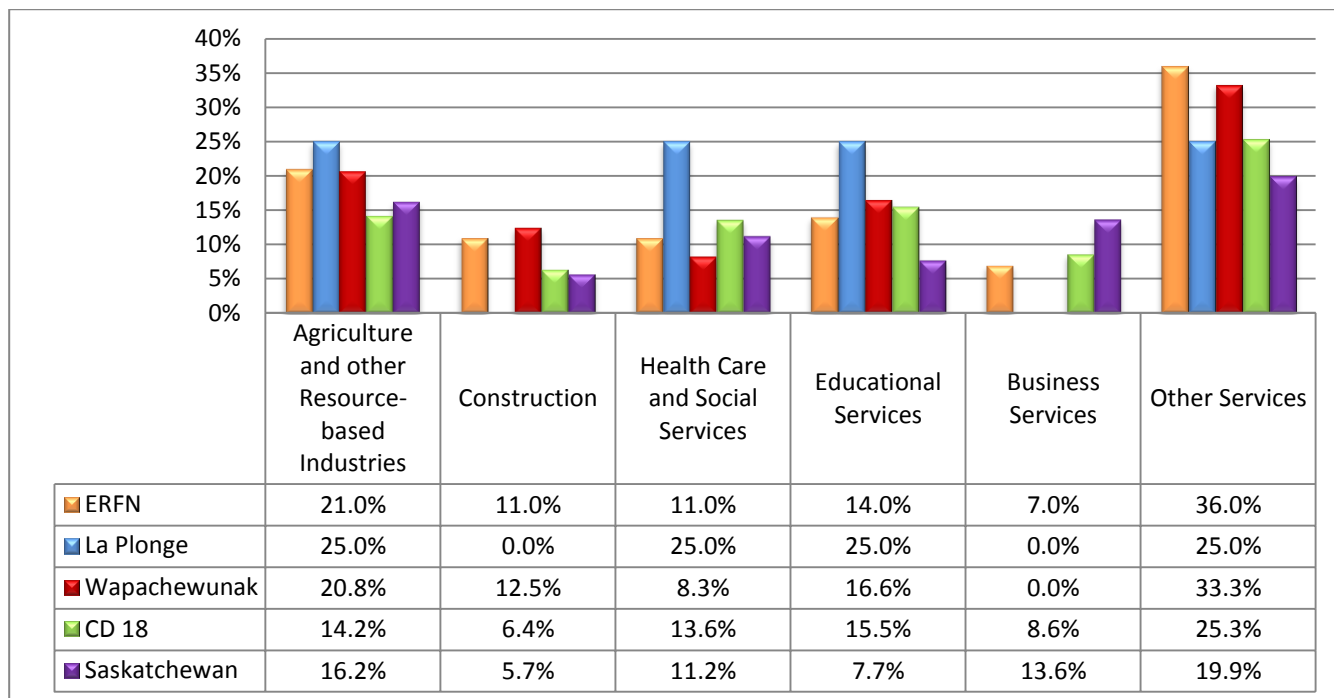


Figure 12: Labour Force by Industry, 2006

Source: Statistics Canada 2006 Aboriginal Population Profiles. Statistics Canada. 2006 Community Profiles. Both CD 18 and Saskatchewan have members of the labour force in additional industries; as such the percentages do not add to 100%.

As shown in Figure 12, the industry affiliated with the greatest proportion of the ERFN on-reserve labour force in 2006 was ‘other services’ (e.g., Repair and maintenance, personal and laundry services, private households, and religious/civic/professional organizations) (36%), followed by ‘agriculture and resource-based industries’ (21%), and ‘Educational Services’ (14%). For the ERFN on-reserve labour force, mining is the main industry in the ‘agriculture and resource based industries’ labour force category; agriculture has little or no contribution. Section 2.3.1.3 (below) describes ERFN’s business activity in further detail, as does Section 3.6 on a regional basis.

2.2.1.3 EDUCATION

Educational Attainment

Figures 13 and 14 provides an overview of the ERFN on-reserve population educational attainment statistics for the population age 15 and over in 2011 and 2006. Generally, the level of education/training has increased for ERFN on-reserve members since 2006, as shown for example in the percentage of the population with a high school diploma or university degree. In many cases the levels of attainment are higher than for CD 18, but are generally less than the province of Saskatchewan. It is noted that the proportion of the Wapachewunak population with an apprenticeship or trades certificate appears to have declined in 2011 compared to 2006, according to census data. This may be related to skilled/educated members having to leave the reserve to find employment, or incomplete coverage for the NHS in the community.

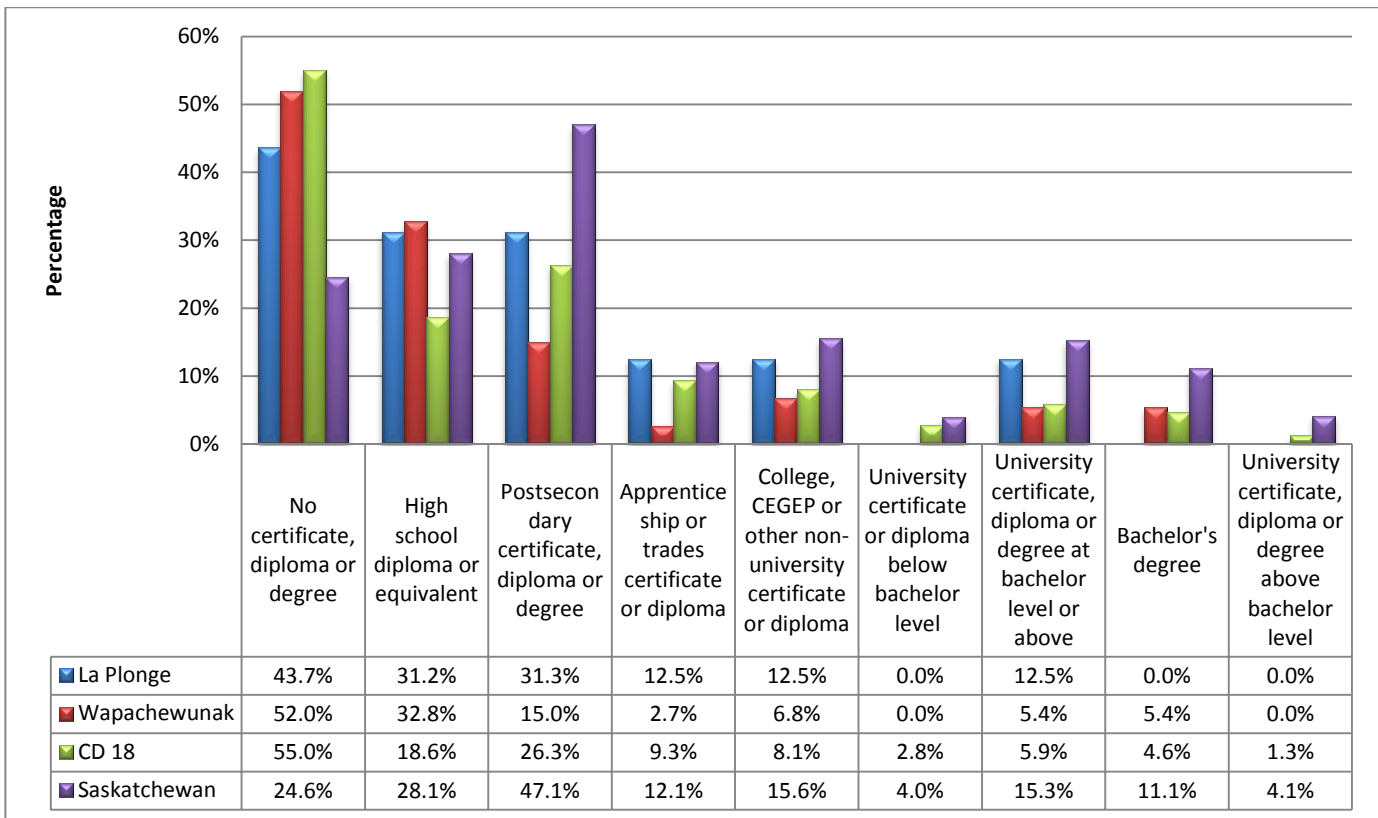


Figure 13: Educational Attainment Wapachewunak and La Plonge, 2011

Source: Statistics Canada. 2013. 2011 National Household Survey (NHS) Profiles. (ERFN data not available in 2011 NHS).

Note: figures for La Plonge add to more than 100% due to rounding of original data by Statistics Canada.

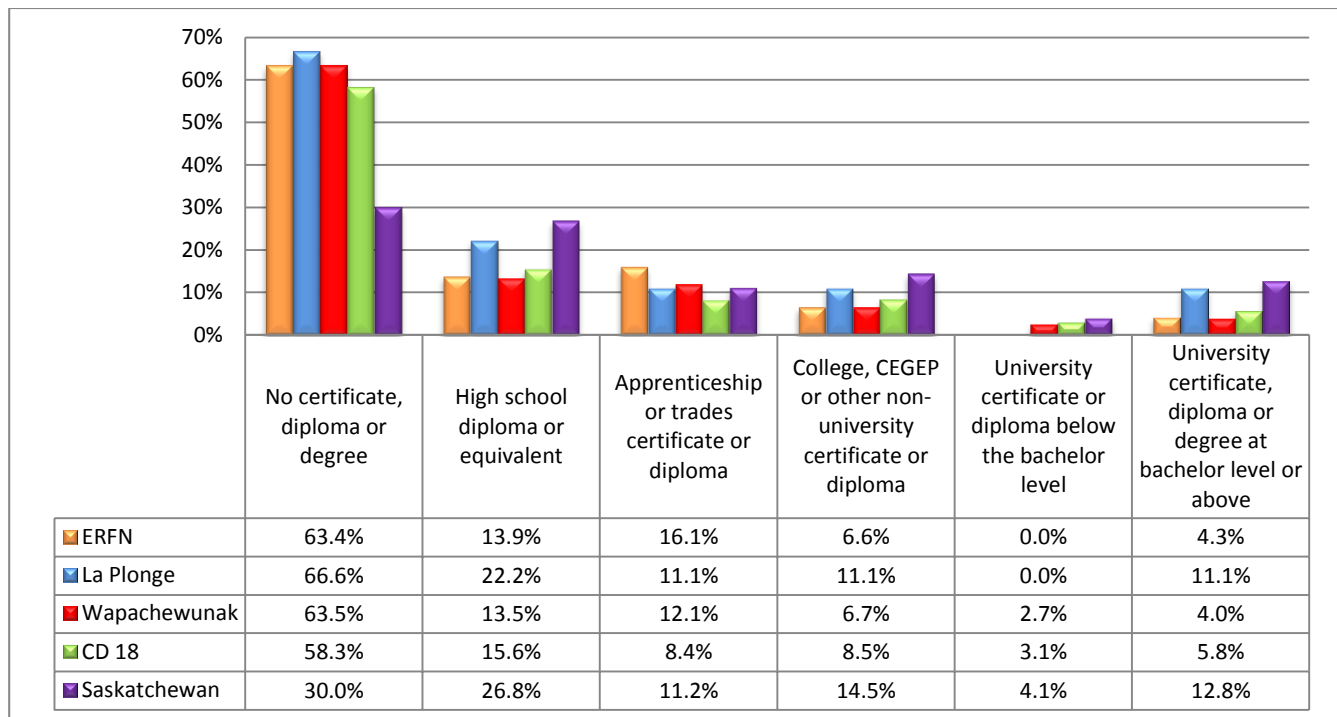


Figure 14: Educational Attainment ERFN On-Reserve, Wapachewunak, and La Plonge, 2006

Source: Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. First Nation Profiles 2006; Statistics Canada 2006 Community Profiles. Note: figures for La Plonge and Wapachewunak add to more than 100% due to rounding of original data by Statistics Canada.

Community Schools



The ERFN is an independent education authority, and operates two schools. The St. Louis School in Patuanak offers Kindergarten to Grade 12 and is situated between Wapachewunak and the Hamlet of Patuanak. The new school was built in 1995, but there has been an elementary school operating in Patuanak since 1969. The first class of students graduated high school from St. Louis School in 2001 (prior to that, students had to leave Patuanak for high school). The St. Louis School offers two computer labs, a science lab, library, special education/ resources lab, home economics lab, multipurpose shop, staff room, and cafeteria (lunch is served daily).³¹ There are challenges retaining teachers due to funding restrictions; once teachers reach the salary cap, many leave for other jurisdictions. The MLTC provides secondary level specialized services (e.g. special education, psychology) to its nine member First Nations.

The ERFN also operates the Mission Hill Elementary School, which opened in 2005-06 in La Plonge. High school students in La Plonge attend the Valleyview School in Beauval. Enrollment figures for ERFN students at St. Louis School in Patuanak/Mission Hill in La Plonge, and the Valleyview School in Beauval are shown in Figure 15.

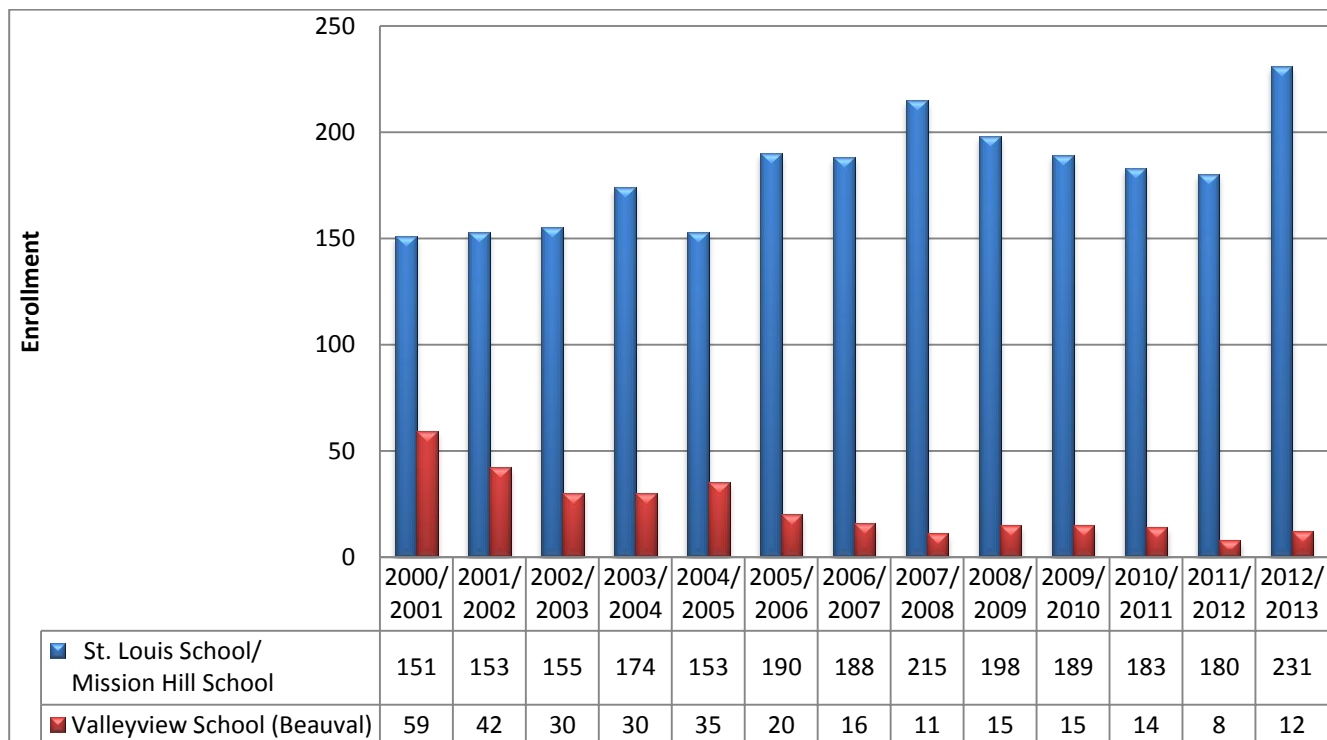


Figure 15: ERFN School Enrollment Statistics, Kindergarten – Grade 12

Source: English River First Nation. Information sent to DPRA Monday, June 24, 2013.

³¹ English River First Nation. Website. <http://www.erfn.net/facilities.html#park>.

Approximately 20% of ERFN students are off-reserve; in those cases ERFN has agreements with the public school system (e.g. the Northern Lights School Division for La Plonge students attending high school at Valleyview in Beauval) regarding funding.

The Aboriginal Head Start program has been operating in Patuanak since 1999.

In general, ERFN has been experiencing higher levels of educational success in recent years. In total, there were 231 ERFN students enrolled in school in Patuanak and LaPlonge in spring 2012, with an average of 13 students/class.

ERFN reports that approximately 80% of students entering kindergarten will graduate high school; there is a 100% graduation rate for students entering grade 12³². Figure 16 shows graduation trends for ERFN students (St. Louis [Patuanak] and Valleyview [Beauval]) during the period from 2000 to 2013.

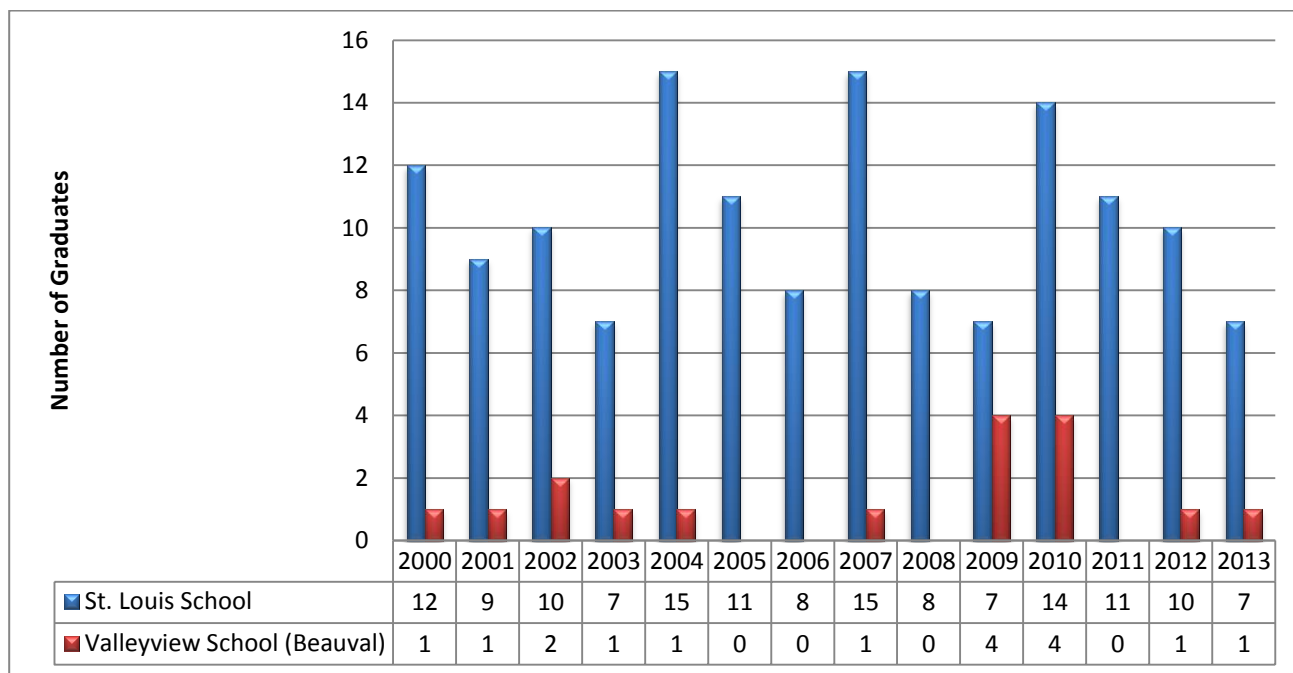


Figure 16: ERFN School Graduation Trends; St. Louis School and Valleyview

Source: English River First Nation. Information sent to DPRP Monday, June 24, 2013.

Post-Secondary Education Options

There are several post-secondary education options available in the region surrounding the ERFN:

- Northlands College (which operates a full campus in La Ronge, and offers some courses in northern Saskatchewan communities such as Beauval, Buffalo Narrows, La Loche and Pinehouse)³³.
- The University of Saskatchewan and University of Regina offer an off-campus Arts and Social Science program through Northlands College in Beauval, Buffalo Narrows, La Loche as well as Pinehouse³⁴

³² This information was obtained during discussions with a community member September 2012.

³³ <http://www.northlandscollge.sk.ca/>

³⁴ Northern Saskatchewan Business Directory. 2012. Communities. Boreal West Enterprise Region. Website. <http://northernbusinessdirectory.ca/images/PDF/Community%20Profiles/Boreal%20West/Boreal%20West%20Enterprise%20Region.pdf>

- Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAST) operates campuses in Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, Regina, and Saskatoon. Distance education courses and programs are also offered³⁵.
- Programs offered by the Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission Office^{36, 37}.
- Northern Teachers Education Program/Northern Professional Access College (NORTEP/NORPAC)³⁸.
- First Nations University of Canada (campuses in Regina, Saskatoon and Prince Albert, with some courses offered in the communities)³⁹

It is reported that in May 2012, there were 35 ERFN students receiving funding for post-secondary education (both university/college [the majority] and trades)⁴⁰. There is a shortage of funding available to ERFN for trades training, and a pent-up demand of individuals seeking training that reportedly cannot be met.

Northern Career Quest

In March of 2008, a four-year federally funded training program - Northern Career Quest (NCQ) - was initiated across Northern Saskatchewan. Designed for Aboriginal people in Prince Albert and Northern Saskatchewan to receive training in the resource sector, the goal of the program was to train 1500 people, providing 750 people with guaranteed jobs at the end of four years. The program was more successful than originally anticipated, with 2542 participants trained and 1326 finding immediate employment after graduation. The federally funded portions of the program ended March 2012, with other elements wrapping up in June 2012 (provincial/industry funded aspects)⁴¹. The program reported the following training totals as of spring 2012 for communities near/associated with/part of ERFN:

- Beauval: 66 trained , 33 working
- Île -à-la-Crosse: 86 trained, 43 working
- Patuanak: 47 trained, 22 working

In January 2013, the governments of Saskatchewan and Canada announced an additional \$9.4 million in funding for Northern Career Quest over a two-year period, for training of approximately 800 First Nation and Métis people in Northern Saskatchewan in high-demand fields such as mining technicians, heavy equipment operators, welders and office administrators.

Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation

The Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation (CCNI) is a not-for-profit subsidiary of the University of Saskatchewan and is wholly funded by the Government of Saskatchewan. The CCNI issued an initial call for research proposals (July 2012), offering a total of \$500,000.00 for five to 30 projects. This initial call is part of a pilot program of research proposals that is hoped will be extended to a twice annual call for research proposals with increased levels of funding. Projects to be funded can be focused in the areas of⁴²:

- Nuclear medicine
- How to make and use materials using nuclear techniques

³⁵ Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology. Website. <http://www.siastr.sk.ca/about/index.shtml>

³⁶ <http://www.saskapprenticeship.ca/>

³⁷ Northern Saskatchewan Business Directory. 2012. Communities. Churchill West Enterprise Region. Website. <http://northernbusinessdirectory.ca/images/PDF/Community%20Profiles/Churchill%20River/Churchill%20River%20Enterprise%20Region.pdf>

³⁸ <http://norstep-norpac.webs.com/>

³⁹ <http://www.fnuniv.ca/>

⁴⁰ This information was obtained during discussion with a community member in May 2012.

⁴¹ Opportunity North. Spring 2012. Northern Saskatchewan's Business and Industry Magazine; Volume 19, Issue 2. Pg. 12-13.

⁴² Wiebe, G. 2012. Seeking Nuclear Leadership. Published in the Saskatoon Homepage, July 4, 2012. Website: www.SaskatoonHomepage.ca.

- Nuclear energy
- Public engagement related to nuclear science

The mission of the CCNI is to become a global leader in the nuclear industry as related to research, development, and training⁴³.

2.2.1.4 HEALTH AND SAFETY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Health Services

ERFN is within the Keewatin Yatthé Regional Health Authority (KYRHA; encompassing an area almost ¼ of the province). The Great River Health Clinic in Patuanak was established in 1994, and is staffed by a Registered Nurse and a Registered Practical Nurse⁴⁴. Doctors visit Patuanak once a month.



Construction of a new health clinic began in 2011. With a budget of \$6.5 million⁴⁵, construction is expected to be complete in August 2013. However, the Great River Health Clinic is run independently from the KYRHA. La Plonge is served by the Village of Beauval's health clinic, a primary care facility operated by the KYRHA.



In 2012, ERFN initiated an Interagency forum, a regular meeting of organizations delivering health, social, education and other services to ERFN.

⁴³ Wiebe, G. 2012. Seeking Nuclear Leadership. Published in the Saskatoon Homepage, July 4, 2012. Website: www.SaskatoonHomepage.ca.

⁴⁴ English River First Nation. <http://www.ern.net/facilities.html#clinic>

⁴⁵ Cooper, R. September 13, 2011. *Patuanak Celebrates New Health Clinic, Bridge*. Published in Northern Pride, September 13, 2011).

ERFN has recently purchased an ambulance, located in Patuanak; previously, the nearest ambulance service was in Beauval. Training for personnel will be conducted in 2013. In the vast majority of cases, residents requiring emergency care outside the community are medevaced by aircraft. Other health care services not currently offered on a regular basis in Patuanak include: dental, veterinarian, psychological, optical, and other medical specialties.

The closest acute care hospital services are in Île-à-la-Crosse, with Prince Albert, Meadow Lake, and Saskatoon serving as the larger regional centres. KYRHA offers outreach and education programs in Patuanak at the Great River Health Clinic. The KYRHA operates medical facilities in Beauval, Île-à-la-Crosse, Buffalo Narrows and La Loche⁴⁶. There are two in-patient facilities: St. Joseph's Health Centre in Île-à-la-Crosse and the La Loche Health Centre. ERFN has representation on the KYRHA Board of Directors, which sets the region's strategic direction, monitors its progress and is accountable for the organization's overall performance. In 2010, KYRHA operated a budget in excess of \$20 million and provided employment to over 350 residents. KYRHA is co-managed by the Population Health Unit and is supplied with physician services through a partnership with Northern Medical Services⁴⁷.

The MLTC also administers some health (and social) services to member First Nations, including ERFN.

Policing

Patuanak has an RCMP detachment. There is also an RCMP detachment in Beauval (adjacent to the ERFN reserve at La Plonge). These detachments share duties between the two communities⁴⁸.



Fire Protection

Basic firehalls are located in both Patuanak and Beauval. Fire suppression crews work in Patuanak and La Plonge, cutting grass and doing maintenance to reduce the risk of fire.



⁴⁶ Saskatchewan Ministry of Health. (n.d.). *Keewatin Yatthe Regional Health Authority Facilities Map*. Website.

<http://www.health.gov.sk.ca/keewatin-yatthe-facilities-map>

⁴⁷ http://www.kyrha.ca/pdf/reports/KYRHA_AR_09_10_SM.pdf

⁴⁸ English River First Nation. <http://www.ern.net/facilities.html#clinic>

2.2.2 SUMMARY OF HUMAN ASSETS

2.2.2.1 PRIORITIES AND KEY ISSUES

A number of priorities and key issues have been identified for the 'Human Assets' category:

- The education and training of members of all ages (children, youth, adults) is a priority for ERFN. A number of initiatives are underway to enhance the success of individuals and the community in terms of future success in employment or post-secondary education. Generally, levels of educational attainment on-reserve have been improving since 2006, and in many cases are higher than for CD 18, but are still lower than for the province as a whole.
- Population data for ERFN's two reserve communities provided by Statistics Canada census data is inconsistent with that reported by ERFN to AANDC. The trends indicated by census data do not reflect actual conditions in the reserve communities of Wapachewunak and La Plonge. ERFN data shows that between 2004 and 2013 ERFN's total membership increased from 1,222 to 1,480 (258 people, or 21%). The ERFN on-reserve population also increased between 2004 and 2011, but has begun to decline. The off-reserve population increased from 575 to 707 members between 2004 and 2013. Census data indicate that ERFN's on-own-reserve population declined between 2006 and 2011 to 597 (while CD 18 and Saskatchewan populations were growing), although ERFN/AANDC data indicates that 732 ERFN members were living on their own reserve in June 2013 (580 in Wapachewunak and 152 in La Plonge) (a significantly higher number than implied by census data, and a 10.1% increase from 2006 census figures).
- The age structure and median age of ERFN's on and off-reserve populations is relatively young (although not to the extent of CD 18) compared to Saskatchewan as a whole – this could present future challenges in terms of employment, housing, and the provision of programs and services in the community. In 2011, the ERFN community of Wapachewunak had a median age of 32.8, while La Plonge had a median age of 28.5 – both showing an increase from 2006. In 2011, the median age in CD 18 increased only slightly to 23.7, while Saskatchewan marginally decreased to 38.2.
- ERFN on-reserve members, particularly in Wapachewunak, in general are somewhat less likely to move than people in CD 18 or Saskatchewan as a whole, based on 5-year mobility data (2011 and 2006).
- Participation in the labour force increased in 2011 compared to 2006 for both Wapachewunak (43.8%) and La Plonge (50.0%), similar to the rate for CD 18 (46.7%) but lower than for Saskatchewan (69.2%). The size of the labour force in Wapachewunak increased from 130 in 2006 to 160 in 2011; in La Plonge the labour force went from 45 in 2006 to 40 in 2011.
- Limited health care /fire protection facilities and services are available in Patuanak and La Plonge.

2.2.2.2 COMMUNITY ASPIRATIONS

The Chief and Council are conducting strategic planning activities and have identified a number of priorities (e.g., increased emphasis on education, new fire hall, training paramedics for the new ambulance). The visioning exercise currently underway will provide insights into the values, goals and objectives of ERFN members. The preliminary set of values that have been identified include 'Our Traditional Way of Life, Skills and Language' (Culture), 'Education and Training' (Building Capacity), 'Healthy and Happy Individuals, Families and Communities' (Wellness). The activities of the recently established Interagency group should result in increased coordination of services and programs to address community needs.

2.2.2.3 CAPABILITIES AND CAPACITIES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

A higher proportion of the labour force in Wapachewunak is employed in natural resources and related occupations than in La Plonge, CD 18 or Saskatchewan. Census data for Wapachewunak indicates lower levels of employment in trades and related occupations in 2011 compared to 2006, but there may be limitations with this information. Both La Plonge and Wapachewunak demonstrate higher proportions of the labour force working in management and business/finance/administration occupations in 2011 than in 2006. In 2011 a greater proportion of the labour force in La Plonge and Wapachewunak were employed in mining (quarrying, oil and gas extraction) and public administration than the labour force for CD 18 or Saskatchewan. Relatively fewer work in retail or health and social assistance industries. Growing numbers of ERFN members are entering post-secondary education, primarily in university/college, as well as the trades and other training. ERFN has a number of initiatives underway to improve related infrastructure (e.g. new health centre in Patuanak) and programs/services (e.g. trained paramedic service).



2.3 ECONOMIC ASSETS

2.3.1 ECONOMIC ASSET INDICATORS

The Economic Assets within a community include the monetary or financial related resources that people use to achieve their livelihood objectives. It includes cash or equivalents to individuals and/or the community, and availability of financial and economic resources that allow residents to manage their finances and wealth. Specific indicators within the Economic Assets category include:

- Employment;
- Income;
- Business activity;
- Tourism;
- Economic development services; and
- Governance and finances.

These indicators are described in this section, within the context of the economic well-being of the English River First Nation.

2.3.1.1 EMPLOYMENT

Table 4 provides the census data on unemployment rates in Wapachewunak and LaPlonge from 1996 to 2011. Data for 2006 and 2011 are shown in Figure 17. In 2011, the unemployment rate in Wapachewunak was 12.5%, much less than previous census years, and lower than the rest of Northern Saskatchewan but higher than the province as a whole (census data indicates no unemployment for La Plonge). Historically, the ERFN on-reserve population has had a high unemployment rate relative to both northern Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan as a whole. In 2006 and earlier, census data indicate unemployment was historically greater in Wapachewunak, and higher in both reserve communities than CD 18 or Saskatchewan as a whole. This variation in employment rates between the two ERFN reserves could reflect a number of factors. Generally, the historically lower unemployment rate in La Plonge compared to Wapachewunak could be a result of greater proximity/accessibility to jobs, or a smaller population. It is understood that the on-reserve unemployment rate is higher than off-reserve employment rates for ERFN members.

Table 4: Wapachewunak and La Plonge Unemployment Rates, 1996-2011

| Year | Wapachewunak | La Plonge | CD 18 | Saskatchewan |
|------|--------------|-----------|-------|--------------|
| 1996 | 31.0% | 25.0% | 20.2% | 7.2% |
| 2001 | 33.3% | 37.5% | 24.2% | 6.3% |
| 2006 | 40.7% | 22.2% | 20.2% | 5.6% |
| 2011 | 12.5% | 0% | 17.9% | 5.9% |

Source: Statistics Canada, Community Profiles, 1996, 2001, 2006. Statistics Canada. 2013. National Household Survey (NHS) 2011 Profiles.

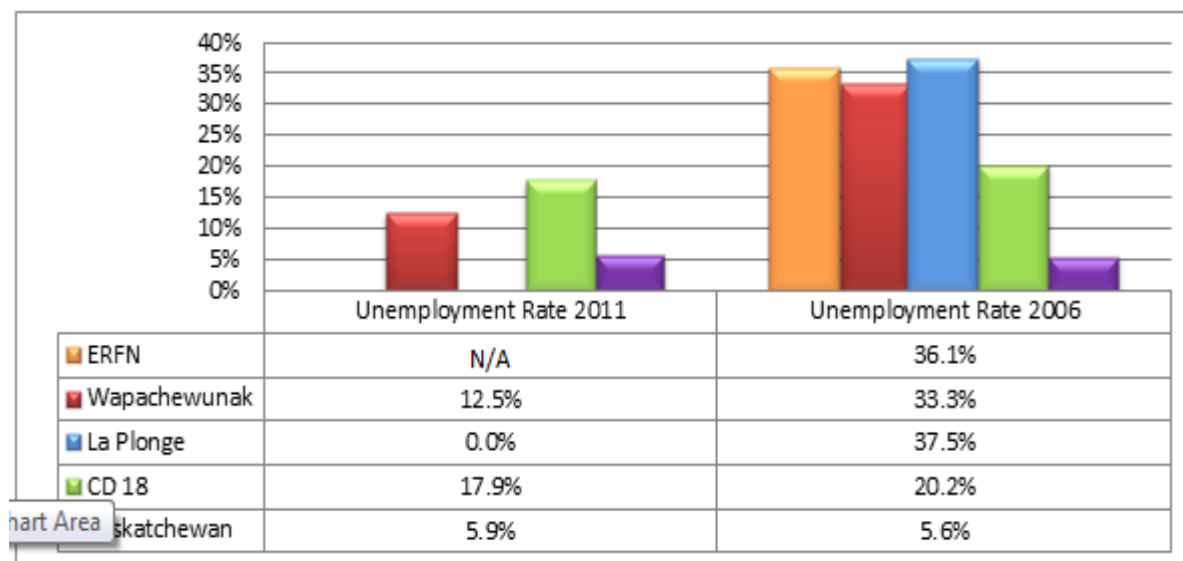


Figure 17: Unemployment Rate 2011 & 2006

Source: Statistics Canada. 2013. National Household Survey (NHS) Profiles. (ERFN data is not available in the 2011 NHS. La Plonge Unemployment Rate was recorded as 0 in 2011 NHS); Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, First Nation Profiles, 2006. CD 18/Saskatchewan Source; Statistics Canada Community Profiles, 2001 & 2006.

ERFN has been offering members a three-phase employment readiness program⁴⁹.

A proportion of the ERFN labour force that is employed works outside the community (e.g., for the uranium mines [directly or indirectly], or provincial government departments).

2.3.1.2 INCOME

Table 5 provides an overview of Wapachewunak's income characteristics in 2000, 2005 and 2010⁵⁰. Over that period, median income in Wapachewunak has remained significantly lower than for the province, but similar to that for CD 18 as a whole. The proportion of earnings as a percentage of income has increased, while income from government transfers and 'other money' has declined. In 2010, the median income of ERFN members living in Wapachewunak (persons over the age of 15 with an income) was \$16,627. By comparison, the median income for persons 15 years and over was \$17,066 in CD 18, and \$31,408 in Saskatchewan as a whole. Overall, 23.4% of the 2010 income for ERFN members living in Wapachewunak came from government transfers (for CD 18 it was 22.5% and Saskatchewan 11.5%). Less than 1% of total income came from other sources of income, compared to 1.5% for CD 18, and 1.8% for Saskatchewan.

Table 5: Wapachewunak Income Characteristics, 2000 - 2010

| Income Characteristics | 2010 | | | 2005 | | | 2000 | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|----------|----------|--------------|----------|----------|--------------|----------|----------|
| | Wapachewunak | CD 18 | Sask | Wapachewunak | CD 18 | Sask | Wapachewunak | CD 18 | Sask |
| Persons 15 years of age and over with income (counts) | 335 | 22,145 | 776,145 | 345 | 20,420 | 728,960 | 300 | 18,910 | 722,760 |
| Median income (persons 15 years and over [\$]) | \$16,627 | \$17,066 | \$31,408 | \$11,536 | \$13,600 | \$23,755 | \$10,272 | \$12,270 | \$19,636 |
| Composition of total income | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Earnings - % of income | 76.1% | 76.0% | 86.6% | 71.7% | 71.7% | 73.9% | 67.2% | 70.2% | 73.6% |
| Government transfers - % of income | 23.4% | 22.5% | 11.5% | 24.8% | 23.1% | 12.8% | 32.3% | 25.2% | 14.7% |
| Other Money - % of income | 0.7% | 1.5% | 1.8% | 3.4 | 5.2% | 13.3% | 1.1% | 4.6% | 11.7% |

Source: Statistics Canada, Community Profiles 2001, 2006. Statistics Canada. 2013. National Household Survey (NHS) 2011 Profiles. Note that income data was suppressed for La Plonge in 2006 census and 2011 NHS; 2006 ERFN data reported by AANDC uses different income variables than Statistics Canada for Wapachewunak, CD18 and Saskatchewan reported in this table.

⁴⁹ This information was obtained in a discussion with a community member, September 13, 2012.

⁵⁰ Statistics Canada. 2007. *Wapachewunak 192D, Saskatchewan (Code4718814)* (table). *2006 Community Profiles*. 2006 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 92-591-XWE. Ottawa. Released March 13, 2007.

<http://www12.statcan.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/prof/92-591/index.cfm?Lang=E> (accessed March 26, 2013).

Between 1981 and 2006, the average and median household incomes in Northern Saskatchewan decreased approximately 14%. During this same time period, the average and median household incomes in the Province increased approximately 11%.⁵¹

2.3.1.3 BUSINESS ACTIVITY

Des Nedhe Development Inc./ Tron Power



The ERFN has enjoyed success in a number of business development areas. Des Nedhe Development Inc. (DNDI) was established by ERFN in 1991⁵². Its mission is to engage in economic development activities that will create sustainable employment and business opportunities for ERFN members. A five-year plan for DNDI and for the community was approved in early 2011. DNDI acquired Tron Power Inc.⁵³ and Trikon North, and established Canadian Shield Insurance and Financial Services LP⁵⁴ in 1997.

Fully Aboriginally-owned and completely self-financed, Tron is one of the ERFN's major employers (with 90 – 140 employees at any given time – 31 in-office employees [four from ERFN], and 70-120 tradespeople on-site [approximately 40 ERFN members at mine sites]⁵⁵) and sources of revenue. In 2009, the company was recognized by the Conference Board of Canada as a successful Aboriginal business in Canada⁵⁶. Tron is not able to draw enough employees from ERFN, and so must go more widely to other First Nations in the north or in the regions surrounding Tron projects⁵⁷. Tron Power maintains close working relationships with northern people, with a participation rate of northerners at approximately sixty percent. Tron Power has successfully implemented orientation and training programs designed to increase the participation of ERFN members and other northern residents (including members from other bands in the areas where they are working) in their construction projects⁵⁸. Tron has a strong crew of highly skilled, professional First Nation tradespeople, reported to be amongst the strongest in Canada, and maintains a database of certified tradespeople. The company takes input from Chief and Council, and the Elders Committee.

⁵¹ InterGroup Consultants Ltd. February 2013. The Socio-economic Impacts of the 'Modern Era' of Uranium Mining on Northern Saskatchewan. Final Report. Submitted to: Community Vitality Monitoring Partnership Process.

<http://www.cvmpp.ca/index.php/reports>

⁵² <http://www.tronpower.com/des.html>

⁵³ <http://www.tronpower.com/>

⁵⁴ <http://www.canadianshieldinsurance.com/erfn.php>

⁵⁵ Martins, V. and K. Matlock. Spring 2011. Digging Deep for Comprehensive Community Services. In *Canadian Business Executive – Construction*. <http://edition.pagesuite-professional.co.uk/launch.aspx?referral=mysuite&pnum=&refresh=4g0Cp1R8Py50&EID=9471106e-0479-4ab2-8420-866f30e1743a&skip=>

⁵⁶ <http://www2.canada.com/saskatoonstarphoenix/news/business/story.html?id=6e7f4523-05a5-4463-b7f8-8cde3737bdc2>

⁵⁷ This information was obtained during discussions with Tron Power September 11, 2012.

Tron has a long-standing relationship with the mining industry in northern Saskatchewan and delivers a full range of construction services and maintenance contracts, with a strong local and regional presence. The company has been on-site at Key Lake for 26 years as a general contractor, and also has worked at the McArthur River and Cigar Lake mines.

ERFN owns and operates a number of companies, operating under the umbrella of DNDI and Tron. These include Minetec Sales and Mudjatik Enterprises. Tron and associated companies generate \$70 million in revenues annually.

ERFN companies are involved in a number of joint ventures through DNDI LP, including:

- the Mudjatik Thyssen Mining Joint Venture (ERFN in partnership with 12 other communities, with Tron subsidiary Mudjatik Enterprises and Thyssen Mining Construction of Canada; established 1997, \$50 million annually; in 2011 the JV employed approximately 700 people at its active sites [including McArthur River, Key Lake, Eagle Point and Cigar Lake mines])
- AllTron Electric (with Alliance Energy Ltd.; established 2005, \$4 million annually)
- JV Driver (established 1996, \$4 million annually)
- Tron Power/JetCrete (established 1985⁵⁹, generating \$2 million annually)
- March Consulting and Engineering (2011 – initial stages, involved in potash industry in southern Saskatchewan)

Other ERFN Business Development Activities

The ERFN's Grasswood urban reserve, just south of Saskatoon on Highway 11, is the site of several business ventures, including the Grasswood Business Centre, the English River Business Complex, and the English River Travel Centre⁶⁰. The Business Centre generates revenue through rentals to clients such as Thyssen Mining, MineTec Sales, and others. The English River Travel Center includes a highly successful Petro Canada gas station, a restaurant and convenience store.

The ERFN also owns the new Beauval Gas and Grocery, which includes a grocery store, restaurant, gas station and convenience store. It is situated on reserve lands just south of Beauval on Highway 155, and there is a plan for a warehouse to be built and used for the distribution/sale of goods.⁶¹ The store employs 35 people (full and part time), many of whom are ERFN band members living in Beauval and La Plonge⁶².



⁵⁹ Tron Power. Website. <http://www.tronpower.com/about-us/history.html>

⁶⁰ <http://www.englishriverenterprises.ca/grasswood-petro-canada.html>

⁶¹ <http://www.englishriverenterprises.ca/beauval-gas-and-grocery.html>

⁶² Opportunity North. Spring 2012. Northern Saskatchewan's Business and Industry Magazine; Volume 19, Issue 2, Page 20.

The Patuanak Gas Bar and C-Store is also owned and operated by ERFN⁶³.

The ERFN is also currently working on two new economic development initiatives with the Meadow Lake Tribal Council Resource Development LP (MLTC RDI)⁶⁴:

- A 'run of river' hydroelectric development in Patuanak on the Churchill River
- The Meadow Lake Bioenergy Centre (the largest project ever undertaken by the Meadow Lake Tribal Council, it will be fuelled by bark, branches, sawdust and wood chips from the NorSask Forest Products saw mill. The Centre will generate up to 36 megawatts of renewable power, which is enough to power roughly 30,000 homes. MLTC RDI has recently signed a 25-year power purchase agreement with SaskPower, the primary supplier of electricity in Saskatchewan, a first of this size for a First Nation corporation in the province⁶⁵)

As a member of the MLTC, and a partner in RDI, ERFN has interests in a number of businesses (these are further described in Section 3.3.2, below).

Along with other Saskatchewan First Nations, ERFN receives revenues from the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority (SIGA).

Private and Public Sector Businesses/Employers

A number of private sector (including ERFN-owned companies and joint ventures) businesses/employers provide employment for ERFN members living on-reserve:

- Tron Power
- Minetec Sales⁶⁶ (in Grasswood Business Centre, Saskatoon)
- Golden Wally Outfitters
- Grasswood Business Center/English River Travel Centre, Saskatoon
- Northern Store
- Patuanak gas bar and convenience store
- Uranium Mines: Key Lake Mill, Rabbit lake Mine, Cigar Lake Mine, and MacArthur River Mine
- Mawdsley Lake Fishing Lodge
- Mudjatik River Outfitters
- Patuanak Taxi
- J & Son's Taxi
- Canadian Shield Insurance Services Ltd.
- Michelle's Hair Design
- Mudjatik Enterprises, e.g.
 - Mudjatik Thyssen Mining Joint Venture⁶⁷
 - Construction
- ERFN Shop Easy and Gas Bar (gas-bar/grocery owned by ERFN south of Beauval)

Several ERFN members work for Cameco at the Key Lake mill. Shifts can vary, but are generally one week on (working) and one week off (at home), or two weeks on and two weeks off⁶⁸. It is of note that ERFN members are tax-exempt when flying in to work at regional uranium mine sites while living on-reserve – the only First Nation in Canada to have this right. This came into effect in 2010, and employees received approximately \$2.4 million in retroactive payments.⁶⁹

⁶³ <http://www.englishriverenterprises.ca/patuanak-gas-and-c-store.html>

⁶⁴ This information was obtained during discussions with a community member.

⁶⁵ <http://www.mltrdi.ca/media> and http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1343846225362/1343846288827?WT.mc_id=e.a.02.10.12.e.0018

⁶⁶ <http://www.minetecsales.ca/>

⁶⁷ <http://www.thyssenmining.com/mtm-jv.html>

⁶⁸ This information was obtained during discussions with English River First Nation members March 31, 2011.

⁶⁹ This information was obtained during discussions with Tron Power, September 11, 2012.

Public sector employers include:

- Band Office
- Health Clinic/Nursing Station
- Canada Post
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police
- Patuanak Airport
- St. Louis School
- Mission Hill Elementary School

The ERFN has over 100 employees - including school, post-secondary education, housing, health and social services, and band office staff (this does not include Tron / DNDI employees)⁷⁰.

Banking services are not available in Patuanak. However, an ATM Cash Machine is available for cash withdrawals at the gas bar and at the Northern Store.

2.3.1.4 TOURISM

The ERFN's location in remote northern Saskatchewan makes it a potentially ideal location for outdoor enthusiasts. However, there are no accommodations or services for visitors/tourists on-reserve in Patuanak or in the Hamlet of Patuanak; the nearest facilities are in the vicinity of La Plonge and Beauval (e.g. Angler's Trail; Sandy Beach; Beauval Travel Center/General Store). Access by aircraft is limited to charters. It is reported that tourism in the region suffered after 9/11⁷¹.

The following commercial lodges and outfitters are located in or near the ERFN traditional territory, accessible by float plane or boat, or from access points along the Key Lake Road:

- Churchill River Wilderness Camps Bear and Fish Camp (Sandy Lake, west of Key Lake Road)⁷²
- Complex Lake Lodge (northeast of Patuanak, east of Porter Lake, and west of the Key Lake Road)⁷³
- Cree Lake Lodge (fly-in lodge on Cree Lake)⁷⁴
- Cup Lake Adventures (northeast of Patuanak, southeast of Porter Lake, and west of the Key Lake Road)⁷⁵
- Eyehill Creek Outfitters (2 camps, just west of ERFN's Churchill Lake reserve on Churchill Lake (on the western border of ERFN's traditional territory)⁷⁶
- Golden Wally Outfitters on Dipper Lake to the north-west of Pinehouse, operated by an ERFN member (accessible by boat from Patuanak)⁷⁷
- Holt Lake Lodge (northeast of Patuanak, east of Porter Lake, and west of the Key Lake Road)⁷⁸
- Kamkota Lodge⁷⁹ (on the Key Lake Road at the mouth of the Churchill River on Pinehouse Lake, approximately 20 km north of Pinehouse)

⁷⁰ This information was obtained during discussions with a community member August 13, 2012.

⁷¹ This information was obtained during discussions with a community member August 13, 2012.

⁷² <http://www.phonepages.ca/SK/Sandy-Lake/Churchill-River-Wilderness-Camp-b12563318-Images-i7106>

⁷³ <http://www.complexlake.com/map.htm>

⁷⁴ http://www.creelakelodge.com/about_us.htm

⁷⁵ <http://www.fishingbug.com/cuplake/>

⁷⁶ <http://www.eyehillcreekoutfitters.com/>

⁷⁷ <http://www.fishingbug.com/goldenwally/>

⁷⁸ <http://www.holtlakelodge.com/>

⁷⁹ <http://www.kamkotalodge.com/contact.php>

- Mawdsley Lake Fishing Lodge (located north of the Churchill River, near the ERFN Dene Cultural Camp on the Key Lake road (56°47'45"N 106°07'20"W) approximately 160 km north of Pinehouse)⁸⁰
- Mudjatik River Outfitters, located at the forks of the Mudjatik and Churchill Rivers, is a 20-minute boat ride from Patuanak, and is operated by ERFN members.⁸¹

The Gordon Lake Recreation Site (a provincial facility 3.7 km² in area) is located approximately 30 km north of Pinehouse on the Key Lake Road. In addition, there are a number of private camps/cabins located along the Key Lake Road, north of Pinehouse, in the ERFN traditional territory. These are often on lands leased from the province by individuals who live elsewhere in the region or Saskatchewan, Alberta or other parts of Canada. However, many ERFN members have family camps sited on lakes and rivers accessible by the Key Lake Road. The increasing encroachment of non-ERFN people in camps along the road is becoming a concern for the ERFN.⁸²

A future focus for ERFN will be on expanding tourism and recreation opportunities. ERFN prepared a four-season tourism plan in the 1980s⁸³. The 1986 Patuanak Planning Study (UMA Engineering Ltd.) also identified a number of potential targeted tourism opportunities, as well as the associated challenges (many of which are still relevant today); that report also noted the separate preparation of the tourism development study.

2.3.1.5 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

The ERFN has access to a range of economic development services, including:

- Opportunities via DNDI, Tron and other ERFN companies
- Partnerships via the MLTC RDI
- Federal (e.g., Beaver River Community Futures Development Corporation⁸⁴, or through AANDC and other departments/agencies e.g., the Aboriginal Business Service Network⁸⁵) and provincial programs offered to First Nations and northerners (e.g. Northern Development Fund⁸⁶, Enterprise Saskatchewan⁸⁷)
- The First Nations and Métis Fund⁸⁸
- Regional initiatives such as the Boreal West Enterprise Region and the Northern Economic Summit (see Section 3.6.1)

2.3.1.6 GOVERNANCE AND FINANCES

English River First Nation – Chief and Council

Table 9 provides an overview of the ERFN Chief and Council elected in October 2013 for a two-year term.

⁸⁰ <http://www.mawdsleylakefishinglodge.com/>

⁸¹ <http://www.fishingbug.com/mudjatikriver/>

⁸² This information was obtained during discussions with ERFN representatives August, 2012.

⁸³ This was identified in discussions with ERFN representatives August, 2012

⁸⁴ <http://www.beaverriver.ca/about.html>

⁸⁵ <http://www.canadabusiness.ca/eng/page/2689/>

⁸⁶ <http://www.fnmr.gov.sk.ca/ndf>

⁸⁷ <http://www.enterprisesaskatchewan.ca/programs%20services>

⁸⁸ <http://www.fnmf.ca/>

Table 6: English River First Nation Chief and Council

| Position | Name |
|------------|-----------------------|
| Chief | Marie Black |
| Councillor | Gloria Apesis |
| Councillor | Russell Black |
| Councillor | Archie Campbell |
| Councillor | Angie Campbell |
| Councillor | Bernadette Eaglechild |
| Councillor | Joey Paul |

Meadow Lake Tribal Council

The ERFN is one of nine member Nations of the MLTC, which represents a total registered membership of 12,618 (as of November 2010)⁸⁹. Additional information is provided below in Section 3.3.1.

English River Treaty Land Entitlement Trust

The English River Treaty Entitlement Trust was established on June 30, 1993 to manage funds received by the ERFN under a Settlement Agreement (September 22, 1992) with the Government of Canada. These funds are to be used for the acquisition of lands, minerals, or improvements for the ERFN. All assets obtained through the Trust are held in the name of the Great River Holding Corporation until formally recognized by the Government of Canada as Entitlement Reserve (existing ERFN reserve lands are described in Section 2.1.2, above).

Collaboration Agreement with Industry

On May 31, 2013, ERFN, Cameco Corporation, and AREVA Resources Canada Inc. announced the signing of a Collaboration Agreement intended to strengthen the relationship between the parties and formalize how benefits from uranium mining will be shared with the ERFN community. The agreement is structured around business development, workforce development, community investment, community engagement and environmental stewardship⁹⁰.

Sources of ERFN Revenue

ERFN receives revenue from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada and other Government of Canada sources, the MLTC (various programs), the Northern Lights School Division, First Nations Trust Gaming, and other sources. ERFN's economic development activities (including Tron Power and various companies, joint ventures) also provide revenue, and are described in more detail in Section 2.3.1.3, above.

⁸⁹ <http://www.mltc.ca/aboutus.htm>;

⁹⁰ ERFN, Cameco Corporation, and AREVA Resources Canada Inc. May 2013. *Collaboration Agreement – Executive Summary*. http://www.erfn.ca/Media/executive_summary.pdf

2.3.2 SUMMARY OF ECONOMIC ASSETS

2.3.2.1 PRIORITIES AND KEY ISSUES

The following priorities and key issues have been identified for the 'Economic Assets' category:

- Historically, census data indicates ERFN has had a high unemployment rate relative to both northern Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan as a whole (1996 – 2006); Wapachewunak has had a higher unemployment rate than La Plonge. However, 2011 data show that unemployment in Wapachewunak was 12.5%, significantly less than CD18 (17.9%), but higher than Saskatchewan (5.9%) (census data indicated no unemployment for La Plonge).
- In 2010, median income (from earnings, government transfers, other sources of income) in Wapachewunak was somewhat less than for CD 18 as a whole, and substantially lower than for Saskatchewan. Between 2000 and 2010, median income in Wapachewunak has remained significantly lower than for the province, but similar to that for CD 18 as a whole. The proportion of earnings as a percentage of income has increased, while income from government transfers and 'other money' has declined. .
- In comparison with Saskatchewan, ERFN's two reserve populations at Wapachewunak and La Plonge had an overall population that is younger, less educated, experiencing significantly higher unemployment, and lower incomes in 2006. While conditions improved in 2011 for most indicators, the on-reserve population still lags behind the rest of the province.
- Tron Power, other ERFN businesses, joint ventures and partnerships with others (e.g. MLTC) have been very successful both financially and in terms of providing employment and training for ERFN members.
- Tourism opportunities are limited in the region by lack of accommodations and support services; however, ERFN members do run a limited number of outfitting operations in their traditional territory.
- Commercial lodges and outfitters run by others, as well as private camps/cabins are found at various locations in the ERFN territory, on land leased from the province. The increasing encroachment of non-ERFN people along the Key Lake Road in particular is becoming a concern. ERFN has been discussing the development of a tourism strategy or plan for a number of years.
- The ERFN has access to a range of economic development services/initiatives:
 - Opportunities via DNDI, Tron and other ERFN companies;
 - Partnerships via the MLTC RDI;
 - Federal (e.g., through AANDC and other departments/agencies) and provincial programs offered to First Nations and northerners; and
 - Regional initiatives such as the Boreal West Enterprise Region.
- ERFN recently completed a Collaboration Agreement with Cameco/AREVA, which will have significant direct and indirect economic benefits for individual members and for the First Nation collectively.
- Completion of the ongoing TLE process will provide ERFN with a land base for future economic, social, cultural and other activities.
- Funding of community, service and infrastructure needs is an ongoing challenge for ERFN.

2.3.2.2 COMMUNITY ASPIRATIONS

The Chief and Council have been conducting strategic planning activities and have identified a number of priorities (e.g., increased emphasis on education and training), and provide direction to Tron Power and other ERFN companies. Tron Power also has a five-year business plan (approximately 2011), and plans for future growth in a number of areas. An ongoing priority is meaningful employment for ERFN members, and implementation of the actions needed to advance it (e.g., education and training [internally via ERFN companies, or externally], the recent Collaboration Agreement with industry). Balancing the wage economy

with traditional activities and way of life in order to maintain cultural values, while providing employment and careers for ERFN members (both on and off-reserve, is noted by the community as a challenge. The desire is to provide employment opportunities for members that will allow them to live in Patuanak or La Plonge, maintaining family ties and links to the land.

The visioning exercise currently underway (targeted for completion in fall 2013) will provide further insights into the values, goals and objectives of ERFN members. The preliminary set of values that have been identified include 'Our Traditional Way of Life, Skills and Language' (Culture), 'Education and Training' (Building Capacity), and 'Economic Prosperity: Better Jobs, Stronger Businesses' (Economy).

2.3.2.3 CAPABILITIES AND CAPACITIES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

While historically ERFN members living on-reserve have been faced with relatively high levels of unemployment, this appears to have been improving between 2006 and 2011. ERFN has enjoyed success in a number of business ventures, including Tron Power. ERFN continues to place a premium on education and training for members. With a relatively young and growing population, and increasing levels of education and training, there is potential for a future work force that can better access opportunities available to it.

2.4 INFRASTRUCTURE

2.4.1 PHYSICAL ASSET INDICATORS

The infrastructure within a community includes the physical assets needed to support livelihoods and the tools or equipment that people use to function more productively. Infrastructure is a public good and improved access to it increases community well-being, human health and quality of life. The specific indicators include:

- Land Use;
- Housing;
- Community Infrastructure and Services; and
- Transportation Infrastructure.

These indicators are described in this section, within the context of the physical well-being of the English River First Nation.

2.4.1.1 LAND USE

ERFN Reserve Lands and Traditional Territory

A variety of land uses exist throughout the ERFN's traditional territory and reserve lands. ERFN's reserve lands are described in Section 2.1.2, above. The reserve areas selected by ERFN (other than the Grasswood urban reserve) typically represent areas of cultural/traditional importance. ERFN uses reserve lands and Crown land in their traditional territory for hunting, trapping, fishing, berry and medicinal plant collection, family/group camping, and other purposes. The areas around the Churchill and Mudjatic Rivers, the Key Lake Road, the lakes located along them, and Cree Lake are of particular note in this regard. Many of these are shown on the map of Northern Saskatchewan in Appendix B.

The approximate boundaries of the ERFN territory are:

- Approximately 150 km north of Key Lake (south of Black Lake)
- Wollaston Lake to the northeast (in the vicinity of several uranium mines, e.g., Cigar Lake, Rabbit Lake, McLean Lake)
- Black Bear Island Lake to the southeast
- Just south of Sandy Lake and the Churchill River as it enters Pinehouse Lake (north of the northern village of Pinehouse)
- The southwest tip of Lac Île-à-la-Crosse
- West to Churchill Lake, Careen Lake
- Northwest of Mayson Lake

ERFN's traditional lands are detailed in a map dated June 5, 1997⁹¹.

Land Use

Historical land use and traditional activities in the ERFN's traditional lands are documented in the work of Robert Jarvenpa, conducted in the 1970s and 80s⁹².

Both the Key Lake uranium mill and McArthur River uranium mine are located in ERFN's traditional territory. The Key Lake Road /Highway 914 actually continues⁹³ on to the McArthur River uranium mine further to the north, although access to this portion of the road is restricted, and it is not part of the official highway network. The Saskatchewan Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure is proposing to construct an all-weather road between the existing access roads to the McArthur River and the Cigar Lake mine sites to provide a more efficient route for trucks to access mines in northern Saskatchewan, including the proposed Millennium Mine located near Slush Lake.

A process to develop the Pinehouse Dipper Integrated Forest Land Use Plan was initiated by the Province in 2000 with an ecological description of the planning area. A Traditional Use Study was published in 2003⁹⁴. The original Pinehouse-Dipper study area overlapped with the southern reaches of the ERFN's traditional territory and included the community of Patuanak. The current study area is understood to be more limited in geographic scope. Section 4.4 of the 2003 Traditional Use Study includes information provided by the ERFN, including draft maps prepared for discussion purposes showing areas used for hunting, trapping, fishing, berry and medicinal plant collection; family camping, historic, ceremonial and burial sites. In 2010, Saskatchewan Environment indicated that it planned to initiate the final review of the Pinehouse Dipper plan⁹⁵. ERFN members note that an Open House was held in 2011, but there is no draft or final Plan as of July 2013.

⁹¹ English River First Nation. June 5, 1997. *English River First Nation Dene Traditional Lands Treaty No. 10*. Hard copy map.

⁹² Jarvenpa, Robert. 1980. *The Trappers of Patuanak: Toward a Spatial Ecology of Modern Hunters*. National Museum of Man Mercury Series. ISSN 0316-1854. Canadian Ethnology Service Paper No. 67 ISSN 0316-1862. National Museums of Canada, Ottawa.

⁹³ <http://www.environment.gov.sk.ca/ea2010-009>

⁹⁴ Saskatchewan Environment and Resource Management. January 2003. *Final Report: Pinehouse-Dipper Traditional Use Study*.

⁹⁵ <http://www.environment.gov.sk.ca/adx/adxGetMedia.aspx?DocID=5d995ef8-7bb4-440d-8e8f-56b02f862363&MedialD=3222&Filename=Environment+Plan+2010-11.pdf&l=English>.

Mudjatik Co-Management Board

ERFN has agreements with the Province of Saskatchewan with respect to the management of water and resources on their traditional lands. Saskatchewan Environment (formerly known as Saskatchewan Environment and Resource Management (SERM)) signed a participation agreement with the ERFN in 1997 to cooperate in the development of co-management activities throughout a large part of their traditional territory. This agreement led to the establishment of the Mudjatik Co-Management Board, which includes representatives from ERFN, SERM, surrounding communities and various stakeholders. In discussions with ERFN in August 2012, it was noted that the Board deals with land use matters on Crown land in the ERFN's traditional territory, for example, the leasing of lands for cabins or camps along the Key Lake road⁹⁶.

2.4.1.2 HOUSING

Through its Housing Policy and the direction of the Chief and Council, the ERFN controls the delivery of housing and renovation construction on reserve. A long-term plan has been developed that addresses the planning and construction of new homes, renovation/repair of existing homes, and the infrastructure needed to support residential development (e.g., additional serviced lands, upgraded water and wastewater management systems). ERFN faces ongoing challenges working with its AANDC and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) partners, for example with respect to on-reserve housing, including the need for greater CMHC inspections, inadequate funding, and accountability. The ERFN hire internally for all housing projects.⁹⁷ ERFN owns most on-reserve housing (the rest is owned by CMHC), and as such information on rental markets, and housing prices, is not available.

Some homes in Patuanak are experiencing mold issues, due to local environmental conditions. The two-bedroom Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation houses are said to be 'too small', and built on poor soil. Thirty new homes have been built recently. A new subdivision is in the pre-planning stage for the reserve. The current settlement is on the south side of the Churchill River; the new subdivision is planned adjacent to the current settlement, on the north side of the Churchill River, connected by the federally-funded Willow Heart Bridge (see section 2.4.1.3) that connects the two parcels of land⁹⁸. Fifty-one units are planned for future construction in the new subdivision - approximately ½ the number needed to meet ERFN's housing needs in Patuanak⁹⁹. ERFN is looking into alternative tenure models, including individual home ownership. Construction of the new homes is anticipated to be at least two years away while the subdivision plans are developed and assessed.



⁹⁶ This information was obtained through discussions with an ERFN staff member August 13, 2012.

⁹⁷ English River First Nation. Website. <http://www.erfn.net/services.html#housing>

⁹⁸ Cooper, R. September 13, 2011. *Patuanak Celebrates New Health Clinic, Bridge. Northern Pride.* <http://northernprideml.com/2011/09/13/patuanak-celebrates-new-health-clinic-bridge/>

⁹⁹ This information was obtained during discussions with a community member August 13, 2012.

Dwelling Characteristics

Table 7 provides an overview of ERFN's household and dwelling characteristics (on-reserve in Wapachewunak and La Plonge) in 2001 and 2006¹⁰⁰.

Table 7: English River First Nation On-Reserve Household and Dwelling Characteristics, 2001 and 2006

| Household and Dwelling Characteristics | 2006 | | 2001 | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | Count | Percentage | Count | Percentage |
| Total – All private dwellings | 180 | | 150 | |
| One family households | 140 | 78% | 110 | 73% |
| Couple family households | 95 | 53% | 75 | 50% |
| Female lone parent households | 40 | 22% | 25 | 17% |
| Male lone parent households | 10 | 5% | 10 | 7% |
| Multi-family households | 15 | 8% | 15 | 10% |
| Non-family households | 25 | 14% | 25 | 17% |
| Total Number of Dwellings | 180 | | 155 | |
| Dwellings constructed more than 10 years ago | 110 | 61% | 95 | 61% |
| Dwellings constructed within the past 10 years | 70 | 38% | 70 | 45% |
| Dwellings requiring minor repairs | 55 | 30% | 30 | 19% |
| Dwellings requiring major repairs | 105 | 58% | 65 | 42% |

Source: This table has been taken directly from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. First Nation Profiles, 2006. Percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

In 2006, the ERFN had a total of 180 dwellings on reserve lands: an increase of 30 units from 2001. The vast majority of dwellings (91.7%) were single-detached houses. Between 1996 and 2006, 70 dwellings were constructed. Dwellings needing minor repair in 2006 numbered 55 (30% of the entire dwelling stock, an increase from 19% in 2001); 105 dwellings (58%) required major repairs (an increase from 42% in 2001). In 2006, 88% of dwellings in ERFN required some type of repair.

As shown in Table 8, the number of private dwellings in Wapachewunak has grown from 2001 to 2011, although there is still a need for additional housing stock in the community. In 2006 census data indicate that there were 153 private dwellings¹⁰¹ in the community; approximately 20% were owned, and 40% were rented. As noted above, the on-reserve housing is owned by ERFN or CMHC; the reported 20% ownership may reflect private cabins or respondent errors in answering the questions. Homes in the adjacent Hamlet of Patuanak (largely populated by ERFN members or non-Status people) are owned, but are not captured in the census data

¹⁰⁰ Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. 2011. *Household and Dwelling Census Statistics*. Website, retrieved May 2012. http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/FNP/Main/Search/FNHousehold.aspx?BAND_NUMBER=400&lang=eng 2011 National Household Survey data to be released September 11, 2013.

¹⁰¹ Statistics Canada Plain Language Definition – Total Private Dwellings: "A separate set of living quarters designed for or converted for human habitation in which a person or group of persons reside or could reside. In addition, a private dwelling must have a source of heat or power and must be an enclosed space that provides shelter from the elements, as evidenced by complete and enclosed walls and roof, and by doors and windows that provide protection from wind, rain and snow." Website: <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=CSD&Code1=4718065&Geo2=CD&Code2=4718&Data=Count&SearchText=pinehouse&SearchType=Begins&SearchPR=01&B1=All&Custom=&TABID=1>

for Wapachewunak. Overall, the majority of housing, regardless of type, was constructed in the period following 1986. In 2011, the number of private dwellings in the community increased to 176. Currently, ERFN reports that there are 29 homes in La Plonge.

Table 8: Overview of Wapachewunak Dwelling Characteristics, 2001 - 2011

| Dwelling Characteristics | 2011 | 2006 | 2001 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-------|----------------------------------------|
| Total number of private dwellings | 176 | 153 | 132 |
| Number of band housing units¹⁰² | 150 | NA | NA |
| Number of owned dwellings | 0 | 35 | 10 |
| Number of rented dwellings | 10 | 60 | 10 |
| Dwellings requiring major repair* | 35 (21.8%) | 44.8% | N/A |
| Number of dwellings constructed within last 20 years¹⁰³ | 100 | 105 | 60 (constructed between 1991 and 2001) |
| Number of dwellings constructed more than 20 years ago | 60 | 40 | 55 (constructed before 1991) |

Source: Statistics Canada Community Profiles 2011, 2006, 2001. 2011 National Household Survey. *as a percent (%) of total occupied private dwellings

In the other ERFN community of La Plonge, census data indicates that there were 39 private dwellings in 2011; a decrease from 48 in 2006. Currently, ERFN reports that there are 29 homes in La Plonge. In the Northern Hamlet of Patuanak, 2011 census data indicate 26 private dwellings - a decline from 32 in 2006¹⁰⁴.

Table 9 indicates that the majority of dwellings in Wapachewunak are single-detached homes.

¹⁰² Calculations for band housing/owned/rented and construction are based on a subset of 'total private dwellings' for all three census years (160 in 2011, 145 in 2006, and 120 in 2001). 'Band housing' not included as a category in 2001 or 2006.

¹⁰³ The reported years of construction vary between 2001, 2006 and 2011.

¹⁰⁴ Statistics Canada. 2012. *Patuanak, Saskatchewan 2011 Community Profile*. Website.

<http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=CSD&Code1=4718814&Geo2=CSD&Code2=4718069&Data=Count&SearchText=Wapach&SearchType=Contains&SearchPR=01&B1=All&Custom=>

Table 9: Wapachewunak Dwellings by Type (1996, 2006, 2011)

| Dwelling # and Type | 2011 | 2006 | 1996 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------|-------|
| Single-detached houses - as a % of total occupied private dwellings | 93.5% | 89.7% | 95.4% |
| Semi-detached houses - as a % of total occupied private dwellings | 3.2% | 6.9% | 0% |
| Other dwellings - as a % of total occupied private dwellings | 3.2% ¹⁰⁵ | 6.9% | N/A |

Source: Statistics Canada Community Profiles, 2011, 2006, and 1996

Figure 18 provides a comparison of dwellings requiring major repair as well as dwellings with more than one person per room for Wapachewunak, La Plonge, the Hamlet of Patuanak, Northern Saskatchewan (CD 18), and Saskatchewan. In 2006, approximately 45% of Wapachewunak dwellings required major repairs; 100% of dwellings in La Plonge required major repairs; and 60% of dwellings in the Hamlet of Patuanak required major repairs. In comparison, approximately 40% of dwellings in CD 18 and 10% of dwellings in Saskatchewan required major repairs.

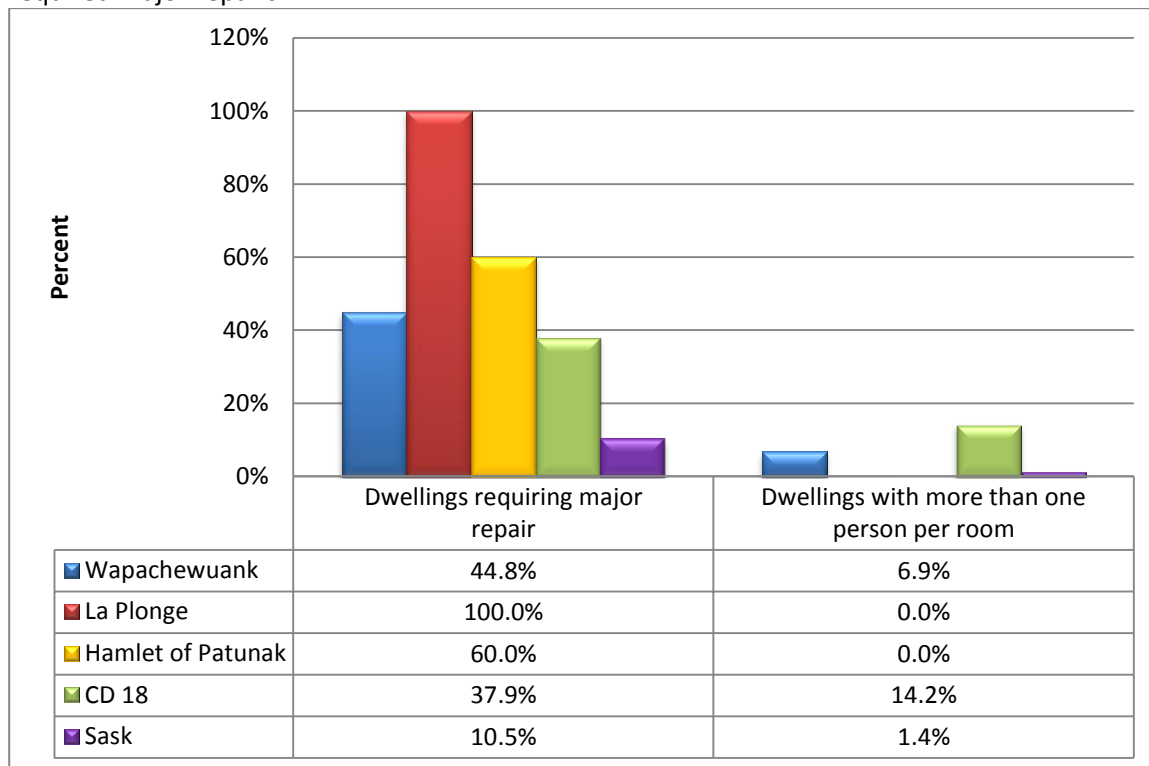


Figure 18: Dwelling Repair/More than One Person Per Room Comparison 2006

Source: Statistics Canada Community Profile 2006

¹⁰⁵ Semi-detached houses count as ‘other dwellings’ in the 2011 census. Moveable dwellings make up 6.4% of the dwellings in Wapachewunak

Average Household Size

Availability of housing is an issue for ERFN reserve communities and in the Hamlet of Patuanak (as it is in most if not all of CD 18), as indicated in discussions with local residents, and as indicated by average household size in the communities. Overall, as shown in Table 10, the average household size in Wapachewunak, La Plonge, and the Hamlet of Patuanak decreased between 2006 to 2011, and is less than CD 18 as a whole, but still greater than Saskatchewan. However, the average household size for CD 18 and Saskatchewan has remained relatively constant¹⁰⁶:

Table 10: Average Household Size

| Community | Average Household Size | |
|--------------------|------------------------|------|
| | 2006 | 2011 |
| Wapachewunak | 3.6 | 3.0 |
| La Plonge | 3.5 | 3.3 |
| Hamlet of Patuanak | 3.4 | 2.6 |
| CD 18 | 3.7 | 3.7 |
| Saskatchewan | 2.4 | 2.5 |

In 2006, approximately 6.9% of dwellings in Wapachewunak had more than one person per room (Figure 18, above), somewhat lower than CD 18 (14.9%), but much higher than for Saskatchewan (1.4%). This may be attributed to a number of factors, including dwelling size or household size.



2.4.1.3 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

The following major infrastructure and services are available on-reserve in Patuanak:

- Water treatment station and distribution
- Sewage collection and lagoon
- Landfill
- Cemetery
- Telephone (land line) and Internet
- Electricity

¹⁰⁶ Source: Statistics Canada Community Profiles, 2006, 2011

Many of these are shared with the adjacent Hamlet of Patuanak. The Willow Heart Bridge officially opened in Patuanak/Wapachewunak in September, 2011. Funded by the federal government, the bridge spans the Churchill River connecting the existing Hamlet of Patuanak and Wapachewunak reserve on the south side of the river, to the (unsettled) Wapachewunak reserve lands on the north side¹⁰⁷. In 2013, the community is in the process of constructing new infrastructure in that newly accessed area, including new housing, sewage lagoons and a landfill.

A new pumping station is being planned for the reserve at Patuanak to improve the existing sewage line to the lagoon. Construction of a new \$4 million lagoon located across the new Willow Heart Bridge is expected to be completed in October 2013¹⁰⁸. The La Plonge water treatment plant is undergoing an upgrade to increase pump capacity. There are plans to install sidewalks, improve street lighting, and the streets/roads on-reserve.

Telephone service is provided by Saskatchewan Telecommunications (SaskTel); electricity is provided by the Saskatchewan Power Corporation. The ERFN is also currently working with the Meadow Lake Tribal Council Resource Development LP (MLTC RDI)¹⁰⁹ on a proposed 'run of river' hydroelectric development near Patuanak on the Churchill River (electricity is currently delivered by transmission from Cumberland House). There is diesel back up for the clinic only; the longest unplanned power outage has been approximately 6-7 hours. Additional information on existing and proposed electricity generation in northern Saskatchewan is provided in Section 3.1.4.1 below.

In addition to these services, high speed Internet is available. Currently there is no cellular service available in Patuanak, although ERFN has identified this as a priority (see Section 2.1.3, above). Recently, an agreement was reached with SaskTel to provide cell coverage, expected to be in-service in December 2013.

A new cemetery has been recently completed in Patuanak. A grader has been purchased, and a maintenance building constructed.

2.4.1.4 TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE



¹⁰⁷ Cooper, R. September 13, 2011. Patuanak Celebrates New Health Clinic, Bridge. Northern Pride.

¹⁰⁸ This information was obtained during personal discussions with a community member August 13, 2012. Tenders closed August 31, 2012.

¹⁰⁹ This information was obtained during personal discussions with a community member.

Located at the terminus of Highway 918, Patuanak is approximately 90 km from the La Plonge reserve and 97 km from the Northern Village of Beauval (located at the junction of Highways 165 and 918). Highway 918 is an all-weather gravel road, although there is a stretch of pavement as Highway 918 approaches Patuanak. The section of Highway 165 west of Beauval is paved; from Lac La Plonge east to the junction of Highway 2, Highway 165 is an all-weather gravel surface. From Beauval the road network extends in all directions to other communities.

As noted above in Section 2.4.1.1, Highway 914/Key Lake Road passes through ERFN's traditional territory en route to the Key Lake mill and McArthur River uranium mine. The Key Lake Road terminus is shown on maps as the mill site; however, it actually continues on to the McArthur River uranium mine further to the north, although access to this portion of the road is restricted, and is therefore not part of the official highway network. The Saskatchewan Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure is proposing to construct an all-weather road between the existing access roads to the McArthur River and the Cigar Lake mine sites to provide a more efficient route for trucks to access mines (including the proposed Millenium mine) and the mill at Key Lake¹¹⁰.

To the northwest of Patuanak, there was a proposal for an all-weather road to be built from the Fort McMurray area of Alberta to the Garson Lake/ La Loche area in northwestern Saskatchewan. A 66 km winter road (the 'La Loche Winter Trail') is constructed annually from south of Ft. McMurray (Highway 881 near Anzac) to Garson Lake (Highway 956) on the Saskatchewan border near La Loche. The proposed Alberta portion of the all-weather connector link project is currently inactive, but was originally promoted to provide access to Saskatchewan labour for the Fort McMurray region and to provide access to recreation and tourism opportunities in Saskatchewan. Saskatchewan has completed its portion of the all-weather road to the Alberta border (see also Section 3.1.4.1, below).

The Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure operates a 3000 ft. gravel airstrip in Patuanak, with approximately 1600 estimated annual aircraft movements¹¹¹. The airport is unmanned, and is not serviced by scheduled flights – only charters or private aircraft. The nearest airports offering scheduled flight services are in Saskatoon and Prince Albert.

Île-à-la-Crosse can be reached seasonally by boat and winter road from Patuanak.

There is no rail or bus service to Patuanak. The nearest rail terminals are located in Meadow Lake and Prince Albert.

¹¹⁰ <http://www.ceaa.gc.ca/050/details-eng.cfm?evaluation=57731>

¹¹¹ Government of Saskatchewan. 2010. Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure.

<http://www.highways.gov.sk.ca/adx.aspx/adxGetMedia.aspx?DocID=222,221,139,1,Documents&MediaID=2452&Filename=Airport+Information+2010.pdf>

2.4.2 SUMMARY OF INFRASTRUCTURE

2.4.2.1 PRIORITIES AND KEY ISSUES

The following priorities and key issues have been identified:

- Through the ongoing TLE process, ERFN continues to expand its land base, including lands of social, cultural, environmental and economic value.
- Effectively managing use of lands and waters within ERFN's traditional territory, in partnership with the province, industry, and other user groups (including potentially other First Nations and Aboriginal communities).
- Substantially improving existing housing stock, and building new homes, so that members can return to the reserves, or so extended families are not forced to share cramped quarters in sub-standard housing.
- Improved physical infrastructure in Patuanak (and La Plonge), such as:
 - Expansion of infrastructure (e.g. new housing, new lagoon, new landfill) across the Willow Heart bridge on newly developed reserve lands;
 - New sewage pumping station;
 - The proposed 'run-of-river' hydroelectric development on the Churchill River (with MLTC);
 - Cell phone coverage in Patuanak (December 31, 2013);
 - Improvements to the all-weather gravel Highway 918 that links Patuanak with La Plonge/Beauval;
 - Street lighting; and
 - Sidewalks/Streets.

2.4.2.2 COMMUNITY ASPIRATIONS

The Chief and Council have been conducting strategic planning activities and identified a number of priorities related to physical assets (e.g., housing, wastewater management, cell coverage). ERFN continues with the acquisition of lands under the TLE process (to be completed 2022). The visioning exercise currently underway in Patuanak and La Plonge will provide further insights into the related values, goals and objectives of ERFN members. The preliminary set of values that have been identified includes 'Infrastructure'.

2.4.2.3 CAPABILITIES AND CAPACITIES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

ERFN has continued to expand its land base through the TLE process, and to plan strategic investments in community infrastructure that will improve quality of life for those living on the reserves at Patuanak and La Plonge.

2.5 SOCIAL ASSETS

2.5.1 SOCIAL ASSET INDICATORS

The Social Assets within a community include the social and community activities in which people participate and the resources that they draw upon in pursuit of their livelihood objectives. These activities and resources create networks within and between communities, enhance cohesion, and generate trusting relationships and community pride. The specific indicators within the Social Assets category include:

- Diversity of Population;
- Cultural Heritage Resources;
- Community Facilities and Programs;
- Social Services and Organizations.

These indicators are described in this section, within the context of the social well-being of the ERFN.

2.5.1.1 DIVERSITY OF POPULATION

Aboriginal Identity

In 2006 and 2011, the people living on ERFN reserves (Wapachewunak and La Plonge) and the Northern Hamlet of Patuanak self-identified exclusively as Aboriginal populations (99% to 100%, almost exclusively First Nations). This compares to 85.7% in CD 18, and 14.8% of the population in Saskatchewan as a whole in 2006; and 86.9% in CD 18, and 15.6% of the population in Saskatchewan as a whole in 2011. There were no visible minorities identified in either of the ERFN communities of Wapachewunak or La Plonge in 2006 or 2011.¹¹²

Persons living on Indian reserves and Indian settlements were not asked the citizenship and immigration questions in the 2001 and 2006 Census or 2011 National Household Survey. Consequently, data are not shown for Indian reserves and Indian settlements at the lower geographic levels. These data, however, are included in the totals for larger geographic areas, such as census divisions and provinces.

Language

In 2011, 47.9% of the population in Wapachewunak spoke an Aboriginal Language at home – a higher proportion than for CD 18 (31.9%) or Saskatchewan (under 2%)¹¹³. For Wapachewunak, this is an apparent increase from 2006 when only 21.9% of the population reported speaking a non-official language at home¹¹⁴. In 2001, 66.6% of the people in Wapachewunak reported a non-official language as their language first learned

¹¹² Statistics Canada. 2006. Community Profiles. 2011 National Household Survey released May 8, 2013.

<http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/nhs-enm/2011/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=CSD&Code1=4718814&Data=Count&SearchText=Pinehouse&SearchType=Begin&SearchPR=01&A1=All&B1=All&Custom=>

¹¹³ Statistics Canada community profile, 2011.

¹¹⁴ Note: The language indicators used by Statistics Canada differ for each of 2001, 2006, and 2011, and are not directly comparable. In 2011 Census results language is recorded as Detailed Mother Tongue and identifies *Dene* within the *Non-Official Language* category. Statistics Canada - 2006 Language Most Often Spoken at Home is captured as *Non-Official Languages*; in 2001 the related category is Language(s) First Learned and Understood and is captured as *Other Languages*. These differences in counting methods may account for the significance of variation between 2001 and 2011 census numbers.

and understood. By comparison, 48.9% of the ERFN on-reserve population spoke an Aboriginal Language at home in 2006, compared to 67.6% in 2001¹¹⁵.

It is reported that the majority of children in Patuanak understand Dene, but many cannot speak it; ERFN is now implementing a Dene immersion program in Patuanak that will begin with 100% immersion in the Head Start program and in Kindergarten; with each grade, English will be progressively added to the curriculum until in Grade 5, school will be taught 90% in English and 10% in Dene.

2.5.1.2 CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES

Traditional and Cultural Activities

ERFN signed Treaty 10 with Canada in 1906¹¹⁶. The name 'English River' originates from the poplar house people – the kesye hot'ine - that historically occupied seasonal residences along the English River¹¹⁷. Historically, the families now located in Patuanak lived a traditional lifestyle down river at Primeau Lake, Knee Lake, and Dipper Lake, and continue a long standing heritage and traditions linked to the land. An academic study has documented the combined influences of missionaries, education, Treaty 10 and the development of Hudson Bay Company outposts along the Churchill River on the coalescence of populations in the region¹¹⁸.



Up until the 1970s, most ERFN members lived a traditional lifestyle: hunting, fishing, trapping, harvesting wild rice, and gathering. While people still do many traditional and cultural activities, few now live on the land year-round. At this time, trapping and fishing are no longer economically viable as a way to make a living. In 2010-2011, approximately \$35,100 worth of furs were trapped in the Patuanak area (Patuanak N-16, Cree Lake N-18)¹¹⁹.

Hunting is still done in group/camp settings with families. The St. Louis School in Patuanak has traditional knowledge incorporated into the curriculum. Many members have observed that some traditional activities have declined with people moving to town, using the store, participation in the wage economy, and the rising costs of travel and equipment.

¹¹⁵ http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/FNLanguage.aspx?BAND_NUMBER=400&lang=eng

¹¹⁶ English River First Nation. Website. <http://www.erfn.net/past.html>

¹¹⁷ English River First Nation. (n.d.). *Past and Present*. Website, retrieved May 2012. <http://erfn.net/past.html>, Jarvenpa 1980, p. 44.

¹¹⁸ Jarvenpa, Robert. 1980. *The Trappers of Patuanak: Toward a Spatial Ecology of Modern Hunters*. National Museum of Man Mercury Series. ISSN 0316-1854. Canadian Ethnology Service Paper No. 67 ISSN 0316-1862. National Museums of Canada, Ottawa.

¹¹⁹ Koback, L. January 2012. *Saskatchewan Wild Fur Harvest and Cash Values 2010-2011*. Saskatchewan Ministry of the Environment, Fish and Wildlife Branch. Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. <http://www.environment.gov.sk.ca/adx/asp/adxGetMedia.aspx?DocID=083e5504-a5fc-4f6a-b46d-c72352c03dd6&MedialD=c41293db-45fb-4de2-bb8a-79ce8f30a97f&Filename=Saskatchewan+Wild+Fur+Harvest+and+Cash+Values+2010-11.pdf&I=English>

Additional information on traditional activities, land use and occupancy is available from a variety of sources (see also 'Land Use', Section 2.4.1.1 above), including:

- A report on traditional land use considerations for the Millenium Mine and Key Lake Extension projects (InterGroup Consultants, 2010);
- The Pinehouse Dipper Traditional Use Study (2003); and
- Earlier studies, e.g. McIntyre, Carris, Douglas, Jarvenpa/Brumbach (e.g. Jarvenpa 1980), and the archives at University of Alberta and the University of Saskatchewan.

The following cultural activities are some of those that take place in the ERFN:

- Treaty Days – an annual event hosted by ERFN last week of June;
- Cultural gatherings – for example, the first week of July for families and second week of July for elders at the cultural camp at Km 160, Key Lake Road;
- Pilgrimage at the Grotto;
- Lac St. Anne Pilgrimage in Alberta¹²⁰;
- Youth Conference - ERFN and surrounding First Nations communities gather to promote continuing practice of traditional activities; and
- Culture Camp held twice a year (in September and winter) at Km 160, Key Lake Road.

Brief History

The following brief history of the people of the ERFN is based on a transcribed history reported by members of the community.

- 1775 to the mid 1930's - numerous trading posts established, primarily along the Churchill River
 - Declining 1880s/early 1900s
- People stayed at the mouth of the Beaver River, Cree Lake, LaPlonge, Knee Lake, Dipper Lake, Primeau Lake
- 1906 – Signing of Treaty 10
- Residential schools
 - Beauval 1910 to 1927 (fire), and 1931 until ERFN school grades were implemented in the 1970s
 - Beauval, Meadow Lake, Saskatoon high school until 2000
- 1916 – Roman Catholic Church established (St. Louis Church in Patuanak)
- Survey of people in 1920s to determine reserve lands
- 1930s – Movement to northern Saskatchewan by Norwegians, Swedes
- 1937 – Church built; people moved to Patuanak
- 1944 to 54 – Commercial fishing industry increased in importance
- 1958 – Co-op store opened
- 1960s
 - Co-op commercial fisheries
 - Shift from dogs to snowmobiles for transportation
- 1969 – First school built grades K-3; then grades 4-5 (1971); grades 6-8 (1973); grades Gr. 9 (1976); High school 2009

¹²⁰ Each year, members of the ERFN (and other First Nations and Métis in Saskatchewan and the west) take part in the Lac St. Anne Pilgrimage in Alberta. Over the course of several days in July, hundreds of people (mainly people of Aboriginal descent) gather to seek spiritual renewal. The pilgrimage began as an annual event over 100 years ago. Traditionally, the area was a place for different First Nations to congregate during the spring Buffalo hunt. In the 1800's, Catholic Missionaries from France established a mission and the shrine of St. Anne Lac St. Anne Pilgrimage. 2012. Website. <http://www.lsap.ca/index.htm>

- 1971:
 - Anthropological studies initiated by Jarvenpa/Brumbach
 - Road (Highway 918) started
 - Families living at Dipper, Primeau and Knee Lakes moved to Patuanak
- 1973 – Telephone service
- 1974-76:
 - Road to Patuanak; electricity (diesel), running water
 - Airstrip
 - TLE process initiated
 - TV
- 1970s/80s - Uranium discoveries (ERFN at that time still very much a traditional lifestyle, but people started working at mines, or on road construction)
- 1980 – publication of ‘The Trappers of Patuanak: Toward a Spatial Ecology of Modern Hunters’ (Robert Jarvenpa)
- 1986 – TLE process restarted; in 1992 \$10 million received for acquisition of land
- 1990s
 - Commercial fishery shifted to winter only
 - First Satellite television
- 2000s - Internet/Wi-Fi available in the community

Heritage Resource/Archaeological Sites

A number of heritage resource/archeological sites have been identified in the ERFN’s traditional territory¹²¹ :

- 25 in northern region (NE area of Cree Lake)
- 19 in the central region
- 22 in the southern region

Many of these heritage resource sites were discovered and recorded as part of the Key Lake Road assessment. It is anticipated that there are other heritage resource/archaeological sites in the area, either unreported or as yet undiscovered. A heritage resource site of significance - the house of fur trader Louis Primeau established in 1775 - is located near the Dipper Lake reserve.

Another cultural heritage resource is the Churchill River itself, a significant waterway during pre-contact, from as early as 10,000 years ago. From 1775 to the mid-1930s the Churchill River supported numerous trading posts operated by both the English and French voyageurs, including the Hudson Bay Company’s Dipper and Elbow (Knee) Lake posts, which were established in 1905 and 1921, respectively.¹²² The Churchill River was nominated as a potential Canadian Heritage River in 1993; as of August 2013, it remains a candidate but has not been designated¹²³.

¹²¹ Golder Associates. 2011. English River First Nation, Saskatchewan - Initial Screening for Siting a Deep Geological Repository for Canada’s Used Nuclear Fuel. Prepared for the Nuclear Waste Management Organization. Pages 5-9.

¹²² Golder Associates. 2011. English River First Nation, Saskatchewan - Initial Screening for Siting a Deep Geological Repository for Canada’s Used Nuclear Fuel. Prepared for the Nuclear Waste Management Organization. Page 7.

¹²³ <http://www.tpcs.gov.sk.ca/Conserving> (accessed August 30, 2012).

Willow Heart's Prophecies

Willow Heart was a prophet from English River, often cited by members for the foresight that she exhibited with respect to the future. She was present at the Treaty signing in 1906. The prophecies are seen by some to forewarn of peril, while others feel they were predicting many of the changes seen in modern society and can be interpreted in many ways.



The Treaty Ten Signing Party at Ile-a-la-Crosse, 1906. Pere Rapet (second from the left, seated), Willow Heart (middle), Chief William Apeis (two over to the right, behind Willow Heart). Courtesy Max McIntyre.

2.5.1.3 COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

The ERFN operates an arena complex, youth centre, Band office, and Band hall. Other community facilities include St. Louis School, Sekwiaze Koe Daycare Centre, the local radio station and St. Louis Roman Catholic Church. A community beach/picnic area is located just south of Patuanak. Treaty grounds are situated near the band office on the waterfront in Patuanak.

a) Ovide G. McIntyre Memorial Arena



The arena has four dressing rooms, a broadcasting station for announcing games, and a small kitchen for cooking and selling food. The arena is often used for hockey tournaments and small attractions that come to town when the ice is installed. Graduation ceremonies sometimes take place there, when the graduating class is too large for the gymnasium at the school.¹²⁴

¹²⁴English River First Nation. Website. <http://www.erfn.net/facilities.html#park>

b) Youth Centre

The Youth Centre was built in 2001. It has a TV, stereo, foosball, pool tables, VCR and arcade games for the youth. There is adult supervision when open.¹²⁵

c) William Apesis Memorial Band Hall

The Band Hall is used for dances, weddings, receptions, town meetings, recreational activities and wakes. There is a stage area, where local musicians often practice, and a small kitchen.¹²⁶

d) ERFN Band Office

The band office houses Council chambers, and offices for ERFN staff, Chief and Council.

¹²⁵ English River First Nation. Website. <http://www.ern.net/facilities.html#park>

¹²⁶ English River First Nation. Website. <http://www.ern.net/facilities.html#park>

e) St. Louis Roman Catholic Church

The existing church structure is quite aged and no longer regularly used; ERFN has plans to construct a new church in Patuanak in 2013.



f) St. Louis School

The St. Louis School, operated by ERFN, offers Kindergarten to Grade 12 and is situated between Wapachewunak and the Hamlet of Patuanak. The new school was built in 1995, but there has been an elementary school operating in Patuanak since 1969. The first class of students to graduate high school from St. Louis School was in 2001 (prior to that, students had to leave Patuanak for high school). The St. Louis School offers two computer labs, a science lab, library, special education/ resources lab, home economics lab, multipurpose shop, staff room, and cafeteria (lunch is served daily) (see also Section 2.2.1.3, Education).¹²⁷



g) Sekwiaze Koe Daycare Centre



The Sekwiaze Koe daycare centre operates in Patuanak.

¹²⁷ English River First Nation. Website. <http://www.erfn.net/facilities.html#park>

h) CPAT 89.9 Radio Station

CPAT 89.9 is the local radio station run by manager Pat D’Jonaire. CPAT has been serving the ERFN community since 1991. Broadcasts are from 9 am to 12pm daily, providing community members with local and regional news and announcements¹²⁸. A community cable television station operates out of the same office.

**i) Canada Post Office**

The Canada Post Office opens twice weekly on Tuesdays and Fridays¹²⁹.

**2.5.1.4 SOCIAL SERVICES & ORGANIZATIONS**

In 2012 ERFN initiated an Interagency forum, a regular meeting of organizations delivering health, social, education and other services to ERFN.

The Great River Health Clinic provides a *National Native Alcohol & Drug Abuse Program* and *Indian Child Family Services* program¹³⁰. An Aboriginal Head Start program is also offered in Patuanak.

There is a newly formed Women’s Group in Patuanak, and a Community Youth Group. A Fundraising Group functions to raise resources for the annual Grade 12 graduation trip (for example, in 2011 students went to Los Angeles; in July 2012 they went to Hawaii). A Healing Group operates in La Plonge.

The MLTC administers a number of health and social service programs to ERFN and other member First Nations.

¹²⁸ English River First Nation. Website. <http://www.erfn.net/facilities.html#park>

¹²⁹ English River First Nation. Website. <http://www.erfn.net/facilities.html#park>

¹³⁰ English River First Nation. <http://www.erfn.net/facilities.html#clinic>

Media and communication services also help to strengthen the social ties within the community, providing information from within the community and at a regional scale. Some of these media and services include:

- ERFN website (www.erfn.net; currently being revamped www.erfn.ca);
- Northern Pride – weekly paper serving northwest Saskatchewan (www.northernprideml.com);
- Aboriginal Spirit of Saskatchewan – monthly Aboriginal newsmagazine focussing on northern Saskatchewan (a Northern Pride publication www.aboriginalspirit.net);
- CPAT-89.9 – Patuanak radio station operates in association with the Missinipi Broadcasting Corporation (MBC);
- Community cable television station;
- CBC Radio 1 CBKR-102.5; and
- Satellite TV and Internet.

2.5.2 SUMMARY OF SOCIAL ASSETS

2.5.2.1 PRIORITIES AND KEY ISSUES

The priorities and key issues related to the ‘social assets’ category include:

- Facilitating increased use of the Dene language, for example through implementation of a Dene immersion program at the school.
- Continued support for a range of cultural activities in the community and in the traditional territory (e.g. at the cultural camp at Km. 160 on the Key Lake Road; along the Churchill and Mudjatik rivers, at Cree Lake).
- Protection of culturally important areas (including ERFN reserve lands, the Churchill, Mudjatik and Haultain rivers, and other parts of their traditional territory) from the effects of development or encroachment of recreational users from outside the community.
- Maintaining and enhancing members’ knowledge of and participation in traditional activities and practices, while balancing a modern lifestyle including wage employment in the community or off-reserve. Many activities such as hunting and fishing are prohibitively expensive for some members.
- Maintaining or replacing aging community facilities (e.g., arena, St. Louis Church, youth centre, the band hall, band offices)
- Provision of recreational programs for members of all ages.
- Improving the effectiveness and efficiency of health and social services delivered in the community (including those dealing with substance abuse and suicide), and improving access to those that are by necessity located in regional centres such as Île-à-la-Crosse, Meadow Lake, Prince Albert or Saskatoon.

2.5.2.2 COMMUNITY ASPIRATIONS

Chief and Council have been conducting strategic planning activities and identified a number of priorities (e.g., recreation, arena upgrades, new church). The visioning exercise (targeted for completion in fall 2013; see Section 2.1.3 above) will provide insights into the values, goals and objectives of ERFN members. The preliminary set of values that have been identified include ‘Our Traditional Way of Life, Skills and Language’ (Culture), ‘Working Together/Team Work’ (Unity), and ‘Healthy and Happy Individuals, Families and Communities (Wellness).

2.5.2.3 CAPABILITIES AND CAPACITIES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

ERFN has a number of identified gaps with respect to community and recreation facilities and programs for residents of all ages in the community. They continue to work on cultural initiatives related to language, traditional activities on the land, and cultural camps. Activities of the Interagency group should result in increased coordination of services and programs to address community needs.

2.6 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

2.6.1 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT INDICATORS

The natural environment or natural assets within a community include the stock of natural resources from which livelihoods are derived, intangible public goods (e.g. air quality and biodiversity), and resources that are “used” by people (e.g. water, trees, land, fish and wildlife). These contribute to overall quality of life. The specific indicators include:

- Parks and Protected Areas; and
- Natural Areas/Features of Significance.

2.6.1.1 PARKS & PROTECTED AREAS

There are several park areas in or near Patuanak:

- The treaty grounds near the Band Office
- The Lein Wolverine Park located adjacent to the Band Hall in Patuanak
- A community beach/picnic area located just south of Patuanak.

Published information indicates that there are no provincial or national parks/protected areas within or adjacent to ERFN reserve areas. In the larger geographic area the following provincial recreation or protected areas have been identified:

- Gordon Lake Recreation Site (3.7 km², 10 km east of ERFN’s Elak Dase reserve 192A, on the Key Lake Road, north of Pinehouse)
- Lac La Plonge Recreation Site (east of La Plonge)
- Little Amyot Lake Recreation Site (approximately 20 km west of La Plonge reserve 192; southwest of Beauval and 12km north of the junction of highways 155 and 165.)
- Migratory Bird Concentration Site south of Beauval (approx. 7.5 km southeast of La Plonge)
- Fort Black – provincially protected area (south of ERFN’s Île-à-la-Crosse IR 192E)

Some of these are shown in Figure 19, below. The map of Northern Saskatchewan in Appendix B shows the location of other parks and protected areas in the larger region.



Figure 19: English River First Nation Parks and Recreation Areas

Source: Golder Associates. 2013.

In addition, a number of small/informal recreation /camp areas, private camps, and commercial lodges are located along the Key Lake Road (see Section 2.3.1.4, above).

It is noted that the Misinipiy Integrated Land Use Plan (Saskatchewan Environment, February 2012) discusses several proposals for protected areas (including the Geikie River recreation site (9,000 ha) and the Foster Lakes Ecological Reserve (23,000 ha); in addition, much of the Highrock Lake and Foster Lakes shoreline is noted as a 'Sensitive Zone')¹³¹. In July 2013 the Pink Lake Representative Area Ecological Reserve, located approximately 170 kilometres northeast of Patuanak, became Saskatchewan's largest provincially-designated protected area of approximately 3,660 km²¹³².

2.6.1.2 NATURAL AREAS/FEATURES OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Churchill River and numerous lakes and other rivers figure predominately in the ERFN traditional territory and way of life. The reserve areas selected by ERFN (see Section 2.1.2 above) represent areas of cultural/traditional importance. In conversation with ERFN members, many note that fish and wildlife numbers have declined in recent decades. Causes cited during discussions include noise, traffic and physical alteration of the landscape due to development, disrespectful treatment of animals, the changing climate, fire, and invasive species. Moose and deer are commonly hunted; Woodland Caribou were still abundant in the 1940s (and are reported to have declined significantly since the year the Churchill River froze in the 1950s), but are still found in lesser numbers. Environment Canada has proposed a Recovery Strategy for the Boreal Caribou Population of the Woodland Caribou (relevant to northern Saskatchewan)¹³³. In the Strategy, critical habitat is not identified in northern Saskatchewan's Boreal Shield range (SK1). The high fire, very low anthropogenic disturbance estimates for northern Saskatchewan, and the lack of population data (numbers and trends) were identified as unique challenges with respect to understanding the status of woodland caribou in northern Saskatchewan.

Churchill River

The Churchill River is an important link between the various lakes in the ERFN's traditional area – flowing from the west in Alberta through Lac Île-à-la-Crosse, to Patuanak and on through Shagwenaw, Dipper, Primeau, and Knee lakes and eastward to Hudson Bay. The Churchill River was nominated as a potential Canadian Heritage River in 1993; as of August 2013, it remains a candidate but has not been designated¹³⁴. Historically and currently, the Churchill River has played an important role in ERFN's activities on the land. The Churchill was a significant trade route to western Canada, and 11 of Saskatchewan's largest lakes are part of the Churchill River. The map of Northern Saskatchewan in Appendix B shows the Churchill River flowing generally from west to east across the area.

Farther to the east, in the Misinipiy Integrated Land Use Planning Area, the Churchill River Sensitive Zone has been established (a 5 km zone on either side and along the length of the river in the planning area). The Plan states: "Given its historical importance to the Province of Saskatchewan and the significant role it continues to play, preparation of a comprehensive plan for this corridor is contemplated. The province will actively seek engagement and cooperation from others...in future planning and management affecting the Churchill

¹³¹ The Misinipiy planning area lies largely to the east of ERFN's traditional territory. Saskatchewan Environment. February 2012. *Misinipiy Integrated Land Use Plan*. <http://www.environment.gov.sk.ca/misinipiy>. P. 12

¹³² <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=ce66ce19-df12-4732-bceb-f6b9c7252b86>

¹³³ http://www.registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca/document/default_e.cfm?documentID=2253

¹³⁴ <http://www.tpcs.gov.sk.ca/Conserving> (accessed August 30, 2012).

River...The Churchill River corridor would benefit from a systematic approach to management. It is a whole connected ecosystem and a comprehensive planning approach is needed along its length so that future land use decisions are coordinated. Until such time as a comprehensive land use plan is prepared for the Churchill River corridor, the list of permitted uses in the Sensitive Zone will be limited to uses existing as of the date of approval of this plan as well as traditional uses as shown in Appendix 4."¹³⁵

Representative Areas Network

The Representative Areas Network (RAN) program is Saskatchewan's initiative to set aside representative natural areas throughout the province that preserve unique and special features. ERFN recently noted that the RAN process in their territory is stalled pending completion of the Treaty Land Entitlement process, and that a caribou protected area south of Cree Lake has been proposed by the Province as part of the RAN network. The new and proposed protected areas noted in S. 2.6.1.1 above in the Misinipiy Planning Area could be part of the RAN.



Ecoregions

The majority of the ERFN reserve lands and traditional territory are located in the Mid-Boreal Upland ecoregion (part of the Boreal Plains ecozone)^{136, 137}. The northern ERFN reserve lands are in the Churchill River Upland ecoregion (part of the Boreal Shield ecozone)^{138, 139}. Each of these two ecoregions are shown in Figure 20, and summarized below¹⁴⁰.

Mid-Boreal Upland Ecoregion

The physical landscape of the Mid-Boreal Upland ecoregion is made distinctive by the glacial ridge and swale pattern left behind in the underlying bedrock as a result of the recessive direction of the last glaciations.

The Mid-Boreal Upland Ecoregion experiences a cooler and drier climate than eco-regions located to the south but is warmer and wetter than the Boreal Shield Ecoregion to the north. The mean annual temperature is 0.3°C.

The Mid-Boreal Uplands ecoregion has eight major forest vegetation groups: Aspen, Jack Pine, White Spruce, Mixedwood, Black Spruce-Jack Pine, Black Spruce, peatlands, and boreal wetlands.

Wildlife include: Moose, Black Bear, Woodland Caribou, White-tailed Deer, Muskrat, Beaver, Gray Wolf, Otter, Snowshoe Hare, Wolverine and Chipmunk, and a variety of birds and waterfowl.

¹³⁵ Saskatchewan Environment. February 2012. *Misinipiy Integrated Land Use Plan*. <http://www.environment.gov.sk.ca/misinipiy>. P. 39

¹³⁶ Saskatchewan Conservation Data Centre http://www.biodiversity.sk.ca/ecoregions/MidBoreal_Upland.htm

¹³⁷ Ecological Framework of Canada. <http://ecozones.ca/english/region/139.html>

¹³⁸ Saskatchewan Conservation Data Centre http://www.biodiversity.sk.ca/ecoregions/Churchill_upland.htm

¹³⁹ Ecological Framework of Canada. <http://ecozones.ca/english/region/88.html>

¹⁴⁰ Saskatchewan Environment and Resource Management. (February 2000). *Pinehouse-Dipper Integrated Forest Land Use Plan. Background Information Document*; and <http://ecozones.ca/english/region/139.html>

Natural fire events are common throughout the Mid-Boreal Uplands ecoregion, generally occurring every 50 to 100 years, and characterized as very large, high intensity, and stand-replacing. ERFN members have noted that fire has caused significant damage to habitat and affected hunting and other traditional activities in areas that have been burned (e.g., the ERFN cultural camp along the Key Lake Road near Km 160). Others feel that the noise from the road and mining activities have been more detrimental to wildlife.

Windthrow and blowdown are also a common disturbance in the Mid-Boreal Upland ecoregion. These events are generally associated with intense localized winds created by windstorms and twisters/tornados.

Churchill River Upland Ecoregion

The Churchill River ecoregion is known for its hundreds of small lakes, rivers and abundance of fish. The physical landscape has a common relief of less than 30m; however, relief can elevate to a height of 90m in certain areas.

The Churchill River Upland has a subarctic climate, which is indicative of short, cool summers and long, cold winters. The mean annual temperature is -2.3°C.

The Churchill River Upland is comprised of six major vegetation covers: Black Spruce, Jack Pine, White Spruce, Mixedwood, Peatlands, and Boreal Wetlands. The main forest cover is Black Spruce; however Jack Pine forests are dominant in areas of dry sand plains. The dominant ground covers include Labrador Tea, Bog Cranberry and Sphagnum Moss.

There are 41 different species of mammal in the Churchill River Upland. Moose, bear and woodland caribou are the dominant species.

The Churchill River Upland also has 204 reported bird species as well as 30 species of fish. There are also five reptilian species found within the Churchill River Upland, including Canadian Toad, Wood Frog, Boreal Chorus Frog, Northern Leopard Frog, and Red Sided Garter Snake.

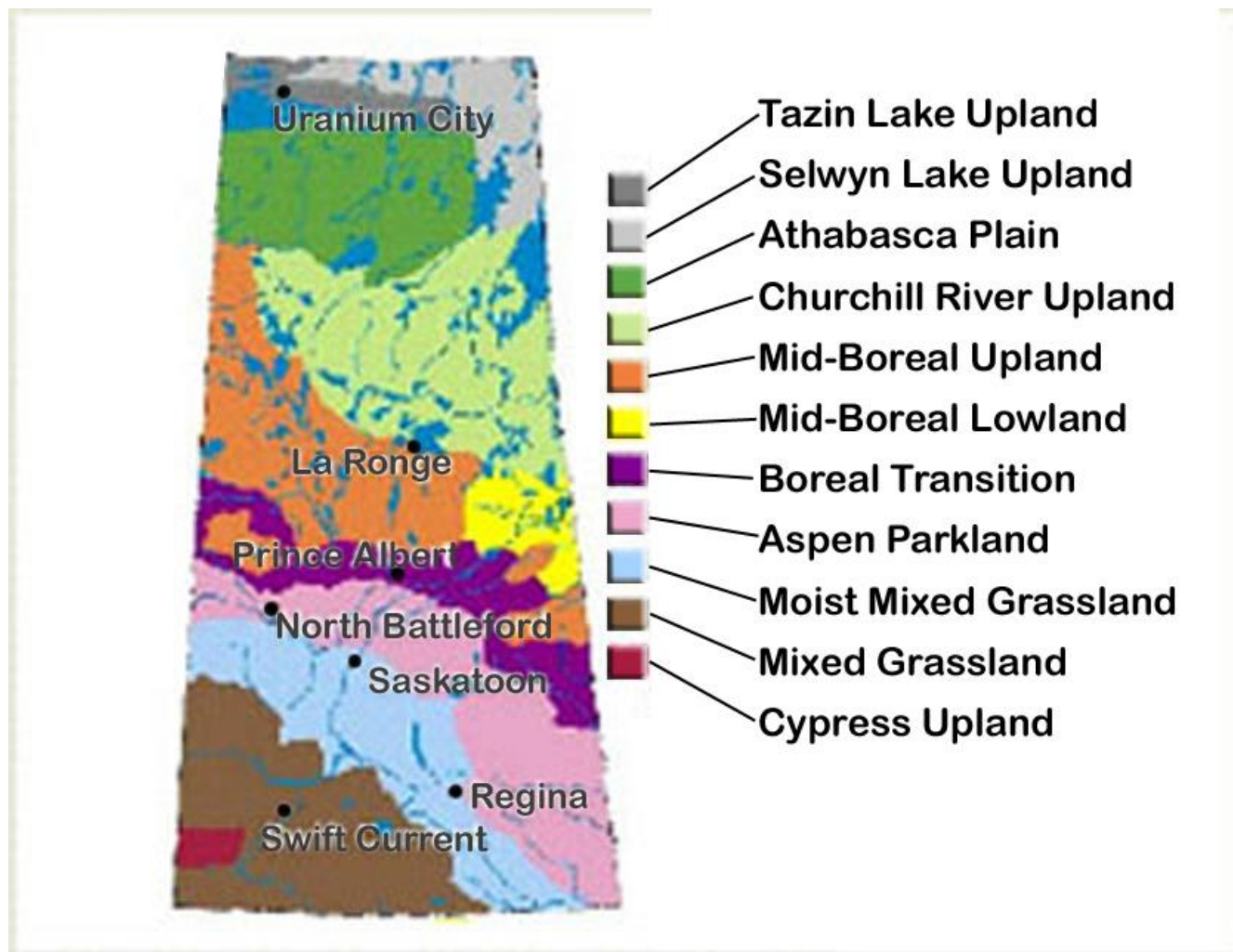


Figure 20: Ecoregions of Saskatchewan (University of Saskatchewan)¹⁴¹

2.6.2 SUMMARY OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

2.6.2.1 PRIORITIES AND KEY ISSUES

Priorities and key issues related to the ‘natural environment’ category include:

- Maintaining, if not improving, environmental quality within ERFN’s traditional territory, to support current and future traditional uses (including hunting, trapping, fishing, wild rice production, collection of berries and plants, recreation, spiritual practices). There is concern that there is not as much wildlife or fish as there once was.
- Protecting the integrity of areas of value for traditional uses, both on reserve lands and in the traditional territory.
- Controlling issuance of Provincial permits for exploration and ‘recreational’ leases on Crown land.
- Controlling the spread of garbage, abandoned mining/exploration camps, and drill core storage.

¹⁴¹ University of Saskatchewan

http://www.usask.ca/biology/rareplants_sk/root/htm/en/ecoregion.php?pageimage=/biology/rareplants_sk/root/images/ecoregion.jpg&pagetitle=ecoregion.jpg&alttag=Ecoregions%20of%20Saskatchewan&titledtag=Ecoregions%20of%20Saskatchewan%20

2.6.2.2 COMMUNITY ASPIRATIONS

The land, water, and air are highly valued by ERFN and its members as a source of sustenance, spiritual growth, and linkages between the past and the present. There is a need to balance traditional values and activities with the quality of life that can be associated with employment, quality housing, and access to recreation, health and social services in the community. The visioning exercise currently underway will provide insights into the values, goals and objectives of ERFN members. Its expected completion date is fall 2013. The preliminary set of values that have been identified include 'Our Traditional Way of Life, Skills and Language' (Culture), and 'Respecting and Protecting the Land' (Environment).

2.6.2.3 CAPABILITIES AND CAPACITIES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

The natural environment in the ERFN traditional territory, and on reserve lands, is a significant community asset - a source of sustenance, spiritual growth, and linkages between the past and the present. The land, water, berries like cranberry, blueberry, and mushrooms, fish and wildlife all support current and future traditional and other community uses.

2.7 UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS

2.7.1 COMMUNITY CHARACTER

Patuanak is a Dene First Nations community. The natural environment and traditional activities on the land and water continue to be very important to members of the ERFN. The community has faced significant social, cultural and economic changes in a relatively short period since the 1970s when the road was built. ERFN continues its efforts to address challenges related to housing, education, employment, health and social services. Geographically, Patuanak is relatively isolated, the only community (other than the Northern Hamlet of Patuanak) on Highway 918. The La Plonge reserve is located 89 km south by road, and Beauval is 97 km to the south.

A number of initiatives in ERFN are contributing to a sense of opportunity moving forward. These include:

- The visioning process initiated in fall 2012, expected to be completed in fall 2013;
- Tron Power, other ERFN companies, and joint ventures – successful business models that contribute financially to the community, providing employment, training and dividends for reinvestment;
- Development of additional land base for new infrastructure across the Willow Heart Bridge;
- Ongoing progress with the Treaty Land Entitlement process;
- Relatively young and growing population (also a challenge);
- Increasing success with education and training of youth and adults; and
- The Collaboration Agreement negotiated between ERFN and Cameco/AREVA in May 2013.

At a regional level, ERFN is involved in opportunities for collective action that will contribute to improved well-being in northern Saskatchewan, including:

- Partnerships and interactions such as those with MLTC, the Northern Economic Summit, the Northern Leaders Table;
- Participation on the Environmental Quality Committee (EQC; which provides a forum to ensure consideration of the concerns and recommendations of northerners on the way in which uranium development occurs); and
- Co-management activities with the Province through the Mudjatik Co-Management Board.

2.7.2 ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES

As noted above, the natural environment and traditional activities on the land and water continue to be very important to ERFN members. They are a source of sustenance, spiritual growth, and linkages between the past and the present in this Aboriginal community.

2.7.3 COMMUNITY GOALS

See Section 2.1.3 above, which provides insight with respect to ERFN's strategic plan and ongoing visioning process. The visioning exercise (targeted for completion in fall 2013) will provide further insights into the values, goals and objectives of ERFN members. A preliminary set of values have been developed based on the results to date¹⁴²:

- *Our Traditional Way of Life, Skills and Language* (Culture)
- *Economic Prosperity: Better Jobs, Stronger Businesses* (Economy)
- *Education and Training*(Building Capacity)
- *Respecting and Protecting the Land* (Environment)
- *Healthy and Happy Individuals, Families and Communities* (Wellness)
- *Infrastructure*
- *Working Together/ Team Work* (Unity)

These are consistent with, and build upon, the previously developed mission statement:

"English River First Nation will preserve and protect English River First Nation customs and traditions. It will preserve and promote the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual values while it leads us into the future with a holistic and respectful mindset of a prospering nation"¹⁴³.

2.7.4 COMMUNITY ACTION PLANS TO DATE AND EXPECTED

As described in Section 2.1.3 above, the ERFN has been involved in planning for a number of years, including:

- Undertaking a community sustainability visioning exercise initiated in the fall of 2012 and to be completed later in 2013.
- Strategic planning activities by Chief and Council including defining a number of priorities, as described in Section 2.1.3, above.
- Preparation of a five-year plan for Tron Power and for the community (approximate date 2011). Three priority areas are identified: housing, recreation, and communications.
- 1986 community plan for Patuanak; some of the concepts in the plan are being implemented today.

142. English River First Nation. 2013. <http://www.erfn.ca/csvp.html>

143 English River First Nation. (n.d.). Website, retrieved May 2012. <http://erfn.net/index.php>

3.0 REGIONAL PROFILE

3.1 OVERVIEW

The definition of the regional context of a community is subjective. The regional boundaries of a community are defined differently by various entities. For the purposes of this Community Profile, the regional context is left undefined, as further dialogue with community members and surrounding communities is required to better understand the broader regional context. ERFN (Patuanak and La Plonge communities) is located in the Northern Administration District/Census Division (CD) 18. Statistics are readily available for CD 18; for this reason and for the purposes of the profile, they will be used only for the purpose of setting context and comparison.

3.1.1 NORTHERN ADMINISTRATION DISTRICT

The ERFN is located in Saskatchewan's Northern Administration District (NAD), as shown in the map of Northern Saskatchewan in Appendix B. In general, the NAD is a resource-rich part of northern Saskatchewan. However, limited infrastructure, lower education, limited health and social services and the large number of small, isolated and remote communities provide many challenges for the area. The NAD has 36,500 residents living in 45 communities, including municipalities (northern hamlets, northern villages and towns), First Nations reserves, settlements, and sometimes a combination of each. The NAD covers approximately 50% of Saskatchewan's land area, yet contains less than 4% of its population.

As shown in Figure 21, the NAD boundaries coincide with Statistics Canada's Census CD 18 boundaries, allowing for ready collection and analysis of regional data that can be compared with both ERFN and Saskatchewan as a whole. Statistics Canada reported in the 2011 census that CD 18 covered 269,996.55 km².¹⁴⁴



Figure 21: Census Division No. 18, Saskatchewan (Statistics Canada)

¹⁴⁴ <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/dp-prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=CSD&Code1=4718814&Geo2=CD&Code2=4718&Data=Count&SearchText=Wapach&SearchType=Contains&SearchPR=01&B1=All&Custom=&TABID=1>

3.1.2 KEEWATIN YATTHÉ REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

ERFN is part of the Keewatin Yatthé Health Region. Additional information on the services and facilities offered by the KYRHA are provided in its annual report¹⁴⁵.

The three northern Saskatchewan health authorities (Athabasca Health Authority, Keewatin Yatthé Health Region, Mamawetan Churchill River Health Region) together comprise an area similar to (but not identical to) the NAD and Census Division 18, as shown in Figure 22. Almost half of the growing population lives on-reserve; over 85% of the population identify as Aboriginal (22% Métis, 62% First Nations – predominately Cree and Dene), compared to less than 15% in the province as a whole¹⁴⁶. The *Northern Saskatchewan Health Indicators Report (2011)* is discussed in Section 3.7, below. The KYRHA's 2009-2010 Annual Report also identifies a number of challenges to the delivery of health services in the region, discusses the status of various determinants of health and health status indicators, and identifies emerging issues.



Figure 22: Northern Saskatchewan Health Authority Boundaries

¹⁴⁵ http://www.kyrha.ca/pdf/reports/KYRHA_AR_09_10_SM.pdf

¹⁴⁶ Irvine et al. 2011. *Northern Saskatchewan Health Indicators Report*. Prepared for the Athabasca Health Authority, Keewatin Yatthé Health Region, and Mamawetan Churchill River Health Region. Population Health Unit, La Ronge, Saskatchewan. http://www.populationhealthunit.ca/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=86:northern-saskatchewan-health-indicators-report-2011-release&catid=1:latest-news&Itemid=65

3.1.3 EXPENDITURES – WHERE DO RESIDENTS OBTAIN GOODS AND SERVICES?

Generally speaking, there are several communities that serve as the commercial hubs in the southern region of the NAD; these are shown on the map of Northern Saskatchewan in Appendix B.

In the southwestern portion of the NAD, Buffalo Narrows, La Loche, and Île-à-la-Crosse (and to a lesser extent, Beauval) provide many of the outlying communities (including Patuanak) with commercial services such as grocery stores, restaurants, accommodations, banking, retail, medical, legal as well as other business services¹⁴⁷. As shown on the map of Northern Saskatchewan in Appendix B, each of these communities are located on (or near) the Highway 155 corridor, a north-south highway connecting many communities in the southwestern region of the NAD to larger centres such as Meadow Lake (246 km from Patuanak), Prince Albert (406 km from Patuanak), and Saskatoon (506 km from Patuanak).

3.1.4 MAPS

The following maps provide insight into various points of interest, social and economic considerations (transportation and electrical power generation /transmission), and natural resources in Northern Saskatchewan. In addition, a map of Northern Saskatchewan included as Appendix B highlights a number of features relevant to this profile (Golder Associates, July, 2013)

3.1.4.1 SOCIAL, ECONOMIC

Transportation

The map of Northern Saskatchewan in Appendix B shows the road network and airports in northern Saskatchewan.

There was a proposal for an all-weather road to be built from the Fort McMurray area of Alberta to the Garson Lake/ La Loche area in northwestern Saskatchewan¹⁴⁸. Development of a highway between La Loche and Fort McMurray could significantly impact tourism in the region by providing a link to a high income population and providing them with outdoor recreation opportunities. The link would also increase employment opportunities and possible construction opportunities through access to Alberta's oil sands projects. There is a 66 km winter road (the 'La Loche Winter Trail') constructed annually from south of Ft. McMurray (Highway 881 near Anzac) to Garson Lake (Highway 956) on the Saskatchewan border near La Loche. The proposal for the Alberta portion of the all-weather connector link project is currently inactive. Saskatchewan has completed its portion of the all-weather road to the Alberta border. Recently, a project team composed of northern Saskatchewan leaders has been established to pursue completion of the all-weather gravel road south of La Loche to Highway 886 in Alberta.¹⁴⁹

¹⁴⁷ Northern Saskatchewan Business Directory. 2012. Boreal West Enterprise Region. Website:

<http://northernbusinessdirectory.ca/index.php/communities>

¹⁴⁸ <http://www.nadc.gov.ab.ca/Docs/Northern-Highways-Strategy-2008.pdf>

<http://www.woodbuffalo.ab.ca/Page11.aspx?SourceId=2&ArticleId=3250>

¹⁴⁹ <http://www.northerneconomicssummit.com/docs/BWR-Access-to-Fort-McMurray-Charter.pdf>

Electrical Power Generation and Transmission

An overview of SaskPower’s transmission and distribution system, including northern Saskatchewan, is available¹⁵⁰. A December 2011 map of SaskPower generation and major transmission shows an existing 110-138 KV transmission to the northwest of Island Falls Generating Station that goes to the various mines in north-eastern Saskatchewan, with a number of spurs shown to the south of Points North in the Wollaston Lake area¹⁵¹. There is a proposed 230KV line from the Island Falls Generating Station to Key Lake (shown on Figure 23 below)¹⁵².

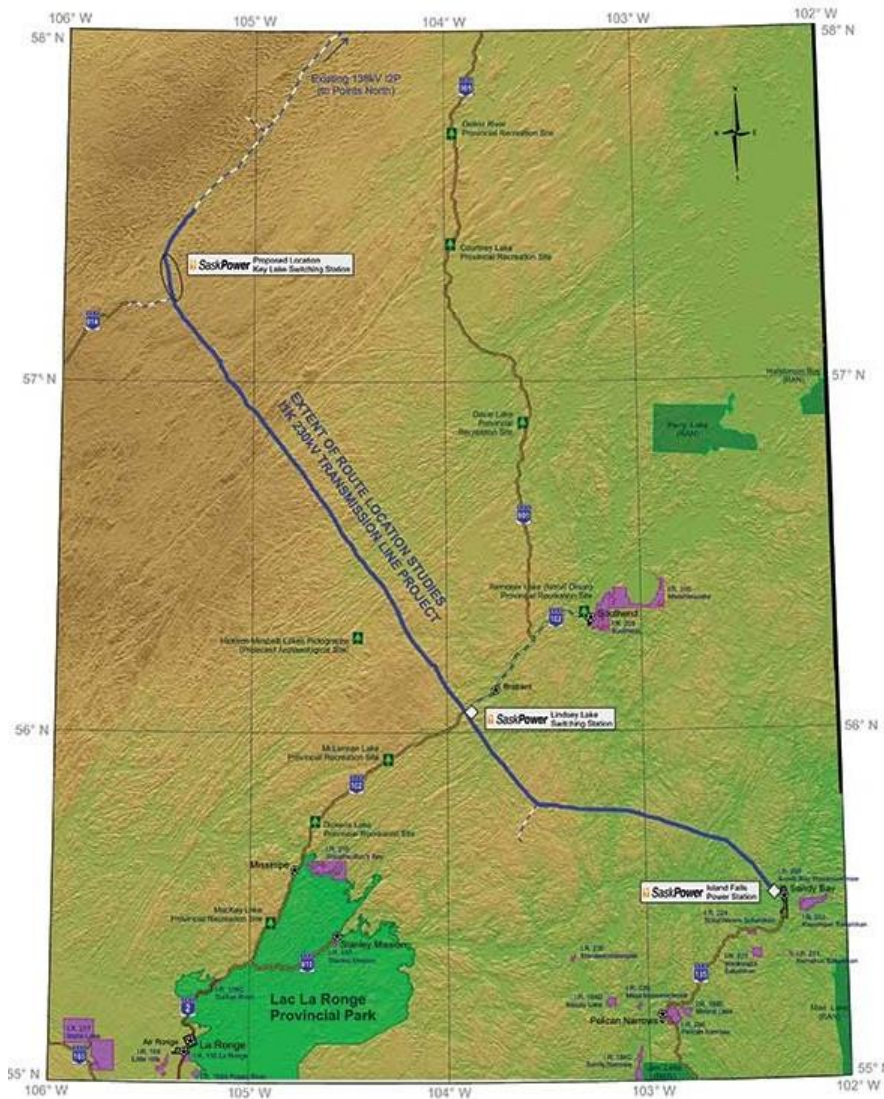


Figure 23: Proposed Transmission Line – Island Fall GS to Key Lake

Additional details on proposed generation and transmission expansions in Saskatchewan are available.¹⁵³

¹⁵⁰ http://www.saskpower.com/about_us/generation_transmission_distribution/

¹⁵¹ http://www.saskpower.com/about_us/assets/generation_and_transmission_system.pdf

¹⁵² http://www.saskpower.com/sustainable_growth/projects/transmission_distribution/island_falls_key_lake.shtml

¹⁵³ http://www.saskpower.com/sustainable_growth/projects/?hdr_link=sustainable_projects

3.1.4.3 NATURAL RESOURCES

Section 2.6.1.2 above provides summary information on the regionally significant Churchill River, the province's Representative Areas network, and the ecoregions found in Northern Saskatchewan.

Forest Resources

The once active northern Saskatchewan forestry industry has been in decline. The Northwest Community Wood Products was initiated in 1999; since that time, and with the rise of new technologies, other new and innovative opportunities could be possible (e.g. bio-fuels). Via the Northern Economic Summit (see Section 3.6.1, below), a project focussing on creating bio-diverse market opportunities for Boreal Wood Resources that will lead to the creation of business opportunities for the people of the Boreal West Region has been initiated¹⁵⁴. Through collaboration with stakeholders in the Boreal West Region and the engagement and inclusion of other appropriate entities and expertise, the intent is to secure a Term Supply License Agreement with the province that will anchor the establishment a Boreal Wood Resource Partnership.

Mineral Resources

Parts of Northern Saskatchewan demonstrate significant mineral resource potential, as shown in a 2012 Mineral Resource Map of Saskatchewan¹⁵⁵. This figure indicates that:

- In the vicinity of ERFN, there is major peat resource potential;
- To the north of Patuanak (and within ERFN territory), there are base metal, gold, and uranium resources (including showings, known deposits, active exploration, active and closed mines); and
- To the northwest of Patuanak, and north of La Loche near the Alberta border, there is oilsands potential.

Existing and proposed uranium mines in Northern Saskatchewan are shown on the map of Northern Saskatchewan in Appendix B. Additional discussion on uranium mining in Saskatchewan is provided in Section 3.6.2, below.

3.2 MUNICIPALITIES

The incorporated municipalities in the area of English River First Nation include:

- Patuanak (Northern Hamlet) - adjacent to Wapachewunak reserve
- Beauval (Northern Village)
- Pinehouse (Northern Village)
- Buffalo Narrows (Northern Village)
- Île-à-la-Crosse (Northern Village)
- Michel Village (Northern Hamlet)
- St. George's Hill (Northern Hamlet)
- Cole Bay (Northern Hamlet)
- La Loche (Northern Village)

The location of these communities is shown on the map of Northern Saskatchewan in Appendix B.

¹⁵⁴ <http://www.northerneconomicsummit.com/docs/BWR-Boreal-Wood-Resources-Charter.pdf>

¹⁵⁵ Saskatchewan Ministry of the Economy: <http://www.er.gov.sk.ca/mineralresourcemap>

New North is an organization formed to advocate for Northern Saskatchewan municipalities within the NAD. It works on behalf of northern communities and is governed by a board of Northern Mayors with an administrative office in La Ronge¹⁵⁶.

3.3 ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

There are a number of First Nations and Métis organizations in the surrounding area. The information in this section reflects readily available information from publicly available sources and does not reflect conversations or dialogue with Aboriginal communities or organizations unless otherwise noted.

The following First Nations are all part of the Meadow Lake Tribal Council (MLTC):

- Birch Narrows First Nation
- Buffalo River Dene First Nation
- Canoe Lake First Nation
- Clearwater River Dene Nation
- English River First Nation
- Flying Dust First Nation
- Makwa Sahgaiehcan First Nation
- Ministikwan Lake Cree Nation (formerly known as Island Lake First Nation)
- Waterhen Lake First Nation

English River First Nation is located in the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan's Northern Region III, and nearby Métis Locals include:

- Patuanak - Métis Local #82
- Beauval - Métis Local #37
- Canoe River - Métis Local #174
- Cole Bay - Métis Local # 41
- Kineepik - Pinehouse - Métis Local #9
- Sakitawak - Île-à-la-Crosse- Métis Local #21

The text which follows provides a brief introduction to some of these communities and organizations. The map of Northern Saskatchewan in Appendix B shows their locations.

3.3.1 FIRST NATIONS

Treaty areas for Saskatchewan are shown in Figure 24 below, and in the map of Northern Saskatchewan in Appendix B. The ERFN is a Treaty 10 signatory.

¹⁵⁶ <http://www.newnorthsask.ca/>



Figure 24: Saskatchewan Treaty Area Boundaries

First Nations nearby to ERFN, and their Treaty or Tribal Council affiliations, include:

3.3.1.1 BIRCH NARROWS FIRST NATION

The Birch Narrows First Nation is a Treaty 10 signatory, and a member of the MLTC. They were originally part of the Peter Pond Band, but separated in 1972 into Birch Narrows First Nation and Buffalo River First Nation. The three reserves at Churchill and Turnor Lakes total 2,902.4 hectares; Turnor Lake (193B), located 124 km northwest of Île-à-la-Crosse, is the smallest and most populated reserve¹⁵⁷, located by the Northern Hamlet of Turnor Lake. As of May 2013 there were 723 registered Birch Narrows First Nation members; 413 live on-reserve¹⁵⁸.

3.3.1.2 BUFFALO RIVER DENE FIRST NATION

The Buffalo River Dene First Nation is a Treaty 10 signatory, and a member of the MLTC. In 1972, the Peter Pond Band was divided into the Turnor Lake / Birch Narrows First Nation and Buffalo River First Nation. Buffalo River First Nation's 8,259.7 hectare reserve is located about 84 km northwest of Île-à-la-Crosse, and the largest population is at Dillon¹⁵⁹. The total registered population as of May 2013 was 1,318. Of that total, 699 members live on-reserve¹⁶⁰.

3.3.1.3 CANOE LAKE FIRST NATION

The Canoe Lake First Nation is a Treaty 10 signatory, and a member of the MLTC. It has seven reserve land parcels, with three located along Canoe Lake approximately thirty miles west of Beauval¹⁶¹. The registered population in May 2013 was 2,238 members, with 943 residing on 14,172.6 ha of reserve lands (the most populated of which is approximately 30 km southwest of Île-à-la-Crosse) and 46 residing on other reserves¹⁶².

3.3.1.4 CLEARWATER RIVER DENE NATION

The Clearwater River Dene Nation is a Treaty 8 signatory, and a member of the MLTC. It is situated at Clearwater River on the east side of Lac La Loche near the Northern Village of La Loche. Four parcels of reserve land total 9,511.1 hectares. Membership in May 2013 was 1,862, with 770 members residing on their own reserve (and 24 on other reserves) and 1,061 off-reserve¹⁶³.

¹⁵⁷ Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. 2013. http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/FNReserves.aspx?BAND_NUMBER=403&lang=eng

¹⁵⁸ Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. 2013. *Registered Population – Birch Narrows First Nation*. Website http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/FNRegPopulation.aspx?BAND_NUMBER=403&lang=eng

¹⁵⁹ Encyclopedia of Saskatchewan. 2006. *Buffalo River First Nation*. Website. http://esask.uregina.ca/entry/buffalo_river_dene_first_nation.html

¹⁶⁰ Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. 2013. *Registered Population – Buffalo River First Nation* Website. http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/FNRegPopulation.aspx?BAND_NUMBER=398&lang=eng

¹⁶¹ Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. 2013. *Canoe Lake Cree First Nation - Reserves/Settlements/Villages*. Website. http://Pse5-Esd5.Ainc-Inac.Gc.Ca/Fnp/Main/Search/Fnreserves.aspx?Band_Number=394&Lang=Eng

¹⁶² Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. 2013. *Registered Population – Canoe Lake Cree First Nation*. Website. http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/FNRegPopulation.aspx?BAND_NUMBER=394&lang=eng

¹⁶³ Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. 2013. *Registered Population – Clearwater River Dene Nation*. Website. http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/FNRegPopulation.aspx?BAND_NUMBER=401&lang=eng

3.3.1.5 FLYING DUST FIRST NATION

The Flying Dust First Nation is a Treaty 6 signatory, and a member of the MLTC. The community is located adjacent to the City of Meadow Lake. As of May 2013, the membership of the Flying Dust First Nation was 1,305. There are 476 members residing on-reserve and 49 on other reserves. 780 members live off-reserve¹⁶⁴. Flying Dust has seven parcels of reserve lands totalling more than 9,100 hectares.¹⁶⁵

3.3.1.6 MAKWA SAHGAIEHCAN FIRST NATION

The Makwa Sahgaiehcan First Nation is Treaty 6 signatory and a member of the MLTC. The First Nation has a total of 5,881.7 ha of reserve land¹⁶⁶, most of which are west of Loon Lake. Of the 1,460 registered band members as of May 2013, 972 live on their own reserve, 98 on other reserves, and 390 off reserve¹⁶⁷.

3.3.1.7 MINISTIKWAN LAKE CREE NATION FORMERLY KNOWN AS ISLAND LAKE FIRST NATION)

The Ministikwan Lake Cree Nation (formerly known as Island Lake First Nation) is a Treaty 6 signatory, and a member of the MLTC. The 11,120.6-ha of reserve lands are located to the west of Meadow Lake¹⁶⁸. As of May 2013, Island Lake First Nation has a registered population of 1,267, with 899 members residing on their own reserve (133 on other reserves) and 233 living off reserve¹⁶⁹.

3.3.1.8 WATERHEN LAKE FIRST NATION

The Waterhen Lake First Nation is a Treaty 6 signatory, and a member of the MLTC. Located 40 kilometres north of Meadow Lake, the 7972.2 hectare reserve is located on Waterhen Lake¹⁷⁰. As of May 2013, there are 1,920 members, with 864 residing on their reserve lands and 95 residing on other reserves. 959 members reside off-reserve¹⁷¹.

¹⁶⁴ Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. 2013. *Registered Population – Flying Dust First Nation*. Website. http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/FNRegPopulation.aspx?BAND_NUMBER=395&lang=eng

¹⁶⁵ Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. 2013. http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/FNReserves.aspx?BAND_NUMBER=395&lang=eng

¹⁶⁶ Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. 2013. http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/FNReserves.aspx?BAND_NUMBER=396&lang=eng

¹⁶⁷ Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. 2013. *Registered Population - Makwa Sahgaiehcan First Nation*. Website. http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/FNRegPopulation.aspx?BAND_NUMBER=396&lang=eng

¹⁶⁸ Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. 2013. http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/FNP/Main/Search/FNReserves.aspx?BAND_NUMBER=397&lang=eng

¹⁶⁹ Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. (2013). *Registered Population – Ministikwan Lake First Nation*. Website. http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/FNRegPopulation.aspx?BAND_NUMBER=397&lang=eng

¹⁷⁰ Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. 2013. http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/FNReserves.aspx?BAND_NUMBER=402&lang=eng Fiddler, V Charles. (1994). *Waterhen Lake Reserve: An Ethno-History From 1921-1993*. University of Saskatchewan Indigenous Studies Portal. Website. http://portal.usask.ca/index.php?t=display_solr_search&having=1649765&sid=865207574
http://portal.usask.ca/index.php?t=display_solr_search&having=1649765&sid=865207574

¹⁷¹ Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. 2013. *Registered Population – Waterhen Lake First Nation*. Website. http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/FNRegPopulation.aspx?BAND_NUMBER=402&lang=eng

3.3.1.9 MEADOW LAKE TRIBAL COUNCIL

The ERFN is one of nine member Nations of the Meadow Lake Tribal Council (MLTC). As of November 2010 the total registered membership was 12,618, with 6,976 members residing on-reserve within the nine First Nations and 5,642 members residing at locations off-reserve. The first languages of MLTC members are Cree and Dene¹⁷². Programs and services provided by the MLTC to the nine member Nations include: Health and Social Development, Economic Development, Education, Technical Services, Justice, and Social Assistance Reform¹⁷³. The nine member Nations of the Meadow Lake Tribal Council – some Dene, the others Cree – are described above. MLTC member nations are signatory to Treaty 10, Treaty 6, or Treaty 8.

The Meadow Lake Tribal Council operates a number of services and programs for member first nations, as well as its Resource Development LP (RDI). Service sectors coordinated by the MLTC RDI include:

“...Primary Care (health, dental, nutrition, physical therapy, etc.), Economic Development (training, employment, aboriginal small business support, etc.), Community Development (sports and youth, addictions programs, environmental health, etc.), Social Development (child care, mental health advisor, Aboriginal head start, etc.) and other programs such as Education, Self Government, Justice, Social Assistance, Elders, and IT”¹⁷⁴.

3.3.2 MÉTIS ORGANIZATIONS

As a First Nation, ERFN is not a Métis community – however, Patuanak is located within the geography of the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan’s Northern Region III. Most of the hamlets, villages and towns in northern Saskatchewan have affiliated Métis locals. The Métis Locals in the vicinity of ERFN include:

- Patuanak - Métis Local #82
- Beauval - Métis Local #37
- Canoe River - Métis Local #174
- Cole Bay - Métis Local # 41
- Kineepik - Pinehouse - Métis Local #9
- Sakitawak - Île-à-la-Crosse- Métis Local #21

Information on these Métis Locals is not publicly available; further detail would require direct engagement with Métis Locals and regions. The location of these communities and the boundaries of the MN-S Northern Regions are shown on the map of Northern Saskatchewan in Appendix B.

¹⁷² Meadow Lake Tribal Council <http://www.mltc.ca/aboutus.htm>

¹⁷³ Meadow Lake Tribal Council. <http://www.mltc.net/firstnations.html>

¹⁷⁴ Meadow Lake Tribal Council Resource Development LP. 2009. Website. <http://www.mltcrdi.ca/site/about/>

3.4 POPULATION DYNAMICS

3.4.1 TREND OVER TIME

Table 11 below illustrates CD 18 and Saskatchewan growth patterns between 1996 and 2011.

Table 11: CD 18 and Saskatchewan Population Trends over Time

| Time Period | CD 18 Population (Change from Previous Census) | Saskatchewan Population (Change from Previous Census) |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| 1996 | 31,104 (N/A) | 990,237 (+0.1%) |
| 2001 | 32,029 (+3.0%) | 978,933 (-1.1%) |
| 2006 | 33,919 (+5.9%) | 968,157 (-1.1%) |
| 2011 | 36,557 (+7.8%) | 1,033,381 (+6.7%) |

Source: Statistics Canada Community Profiles, 1996, 2001, 2006, and 2011.

During this period, the population in CD 18 has shown continuous growth. Between 2006 and 2011, the population in CD 18 grew by 7.8%. In recent years, the population in Northern Saskatchewan has grown at a rate five-times faster than the provincial average. Overall, the population is young, largely a result of a high birth rate.¹⁷⁵ For the province as a whole, between 1996 and 2006, the population declined slightly. However, in 2011 Saskatchewan's population showed an increase of 6.7% from 2006 levels.

Table 12 provides information on the census populations (2001, 2006 and 2011) for communities (Indian reserves, northern villages, northern hamlets, towns) nearby Patuanak¹⁷⁶. These communities are shown on the map of Northern Saskatchewan in Appendix B. While some communities grew in population during that period, others declined. It is noted that census data for First Nation and other communities may underestimate the actual population due to incomplete coverage/low response rates.

¹⁷⁵ InterGroup Consultants Ltd. February 2013. *The Socio-economic Impacts of the 'Modern Era' of Uranium Mining on Northern Saskatchewan. Final Report*. Submitted to: Community Vitality Monitoring Partnership Process.

<http://www.cvmpp.ca/index.php/reports>

¹⁷⁶ Statistics Canada. 2012. *Division No. 18, Saskatchewan (Code 4718) and Division No. 18, Saskatchewan (Code 4718)* (table). *Census Profile*. 2011 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-XWE. Ottawa. Released May 29, 2012. <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E> (accessed July 27, 2012).

Table 12: Nearby Communities – Population 2001, 2006, 2011

| | | Communities | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Community | Community Descriptor | 2011 Population | 2006 Population | 2001 Population |
| Air Ronge | Northern Village | 1043 | 1032 | 955 |
| Beauval | Northern Village | 756 | 806 | 843 |
| Birch Narrows First Nation | Indian Reserve | N/A ¹⁷⁷ | 415 | 335 |
| Buffalo Narrows | Northern Village | 1153 | 1081 | 1137 |
| Buffalo River Dene First Nation 193 | Indian Reserve | 764 | 741 | 607 |
| Canoe Lake First Nation 165 | Indian Reserve | 716 | 822 | 747 |
| Clearwater River Dene Nation 222 | Indian Reserve | 778 | 658 | 584 |
| Cole Bay | Northern Hamlet | 230 | 156 | 161 |
| Flying Dust First Nation | Indian Reserve | 506 | 619 | 580 |
| Île-à-la-Crosse | Northern Village | 1365 | 1341 | 1268 |
| Island Lake First Nation 161A (Ministikwan Lake Cree Nation) | Indian Reserve | 220 | 198 | N/A |
| Island Lake First Nation 161 (Ministikwan Lake Cree Nation) | Indian Reserve | 818 | 533 | N/A |
| La Loche | Northern Village | 2611 | 2348 | 2136 |
| La Ronge | Town | 2304 | 2725 | 2727 |
| Makwa Sahgaiehcan First Nation | Indian Reserve | 905 | 800 | 760 |
| Michel Village | Northern Hamlet | 66 | 79 | 70 |
| Patuanak | Northern Hamlet | 64 | 84 | 72 |
| Pinehouse | Northern Village | 978 | 1076 | 1038 |
| St. George's Hill | Northern Hamlet | 100 | 19 | 102 |
| Waterhen Lake First Nation 130 | Indian Reserve | 670 | 725 | 575 |

Source: Statistics Canada Community Profiles, 2006, and 2011. AANDC First Nation Profiles 2006.

¹⁷⁷ Statistics Canada 2011 census profiles do not include Birch Narrows First Nation although data for other First Nations in the area are reported.

3.4.2 AGE STRUCTURE

As shown in Figure 25, in 2011 the proportion of the population between the ages of 0-19 for CD 18 was 43.1% (a small decrease from 2006); for Saskatchewan the figure is 26.0% (also a slight decrease from 2006).

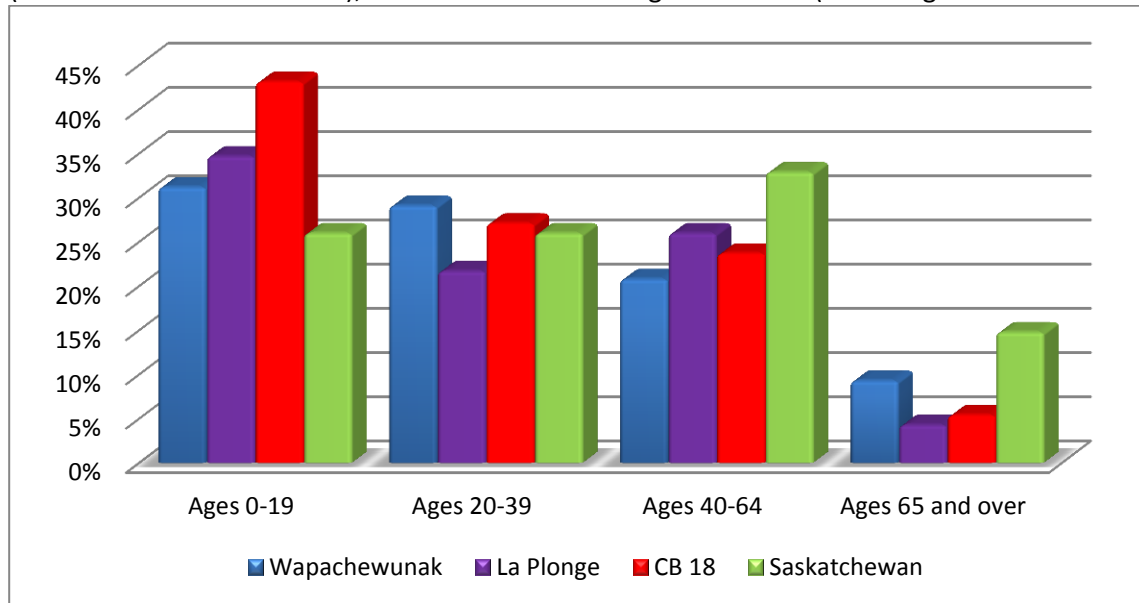


Figure 25: CD 18 and Saskatchewan Age Structure, 2011

Figure 26 shows the age structure for CD 18 and Saskatchewan in 2006. In 2006, CD 18 had a higher proportion of the population aged 0-19 than the province as a whole (44.9% vs. 27.1%). Saskatchewan had a higher proportion of the population 65 and over (15.5%) than CD 18 (5.2%).

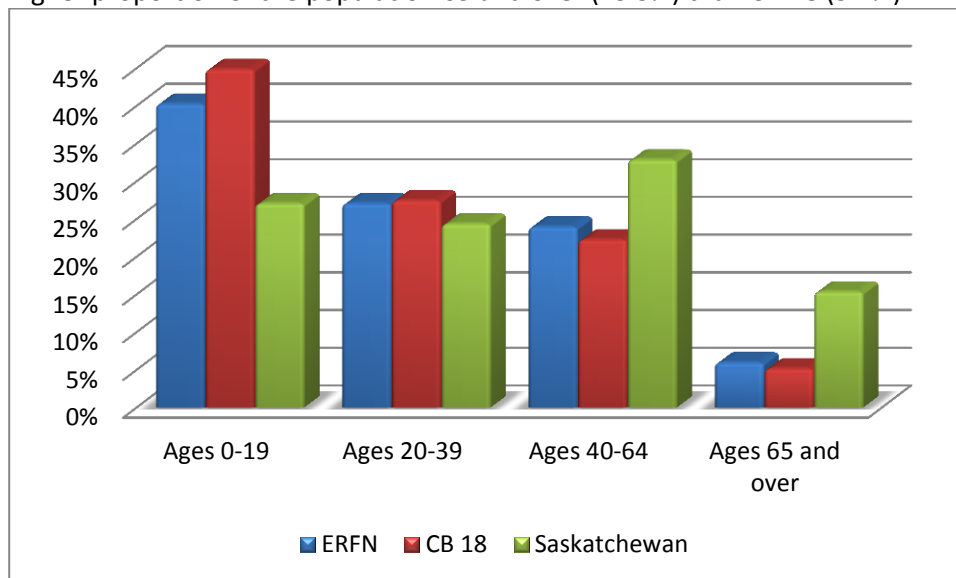


Figure 26: CD 18 and Saskatchewan Age Structure, 2006

Raw Data Source: Statistics Canada Community Profile, 2006

The Province of Saskatchewan had a median age of 38.7 in 2006, compared to 22.9 in CD 18. In 2011, the median age for CD 18 increased to 23.7, and the median age in Saskatchewan decreased slightly to 38.2.

3.5 LABOUR FORCE

Between 1976 and 2011, the labour force in Northern Saskatchewan doubled in size.¹⁷⁸ This can largely be attributed to a steadily growing population, and the desire of the younger population to stay in their communities rather than leaving for employment or education purposes. However, the rate of employment has not grown relative to the rate of population. Employment rates in Northern Saskatchewan (from 1976 to 2006) remained around 40%, which was much lower compared to the province at 60 to 64%.¹⁷⁹

3.5.1 UNEMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION/TRAINING ATTAINMENT

With a little less than 4% of Saskatchewan's population, CD 18 is geographically separated from the major education and employment centres in the more populated areas of the province such as Prince Albert, Saskatoon, and Regina. In general, the majority of the educational, business, and employment opportunities can be found in the southern regions of the province near major urban centres. Further, the vast majority of Saskatchewan's agricultural activity is located in the southern regions of the province, where fertile farm land is more readily available.

Unemployment

An overview of unemployment rates for each census year from 1996 – 2011 is presented in Table 13. Historically, Northern Saskatchewan/CD 18 has had significantly higher unemployment rates than Saskatchewan as a whole, but the rates have been decreasing since 2001.

Table 13: Regional and Provincial Unemployment Rates – 1996 to 2011

| Unemployment Rate | Division 18 | Saskatchewan |
|-------------------|-------------|--------------|
| 2011 | 17.9% | 5.9% |
| 2006 | 20.2% | 5.6% |
| 2001 | 24.2% | 6.3% |
| 1996 | 17.7% | 7.2% |

Source(s): Statistics Canada, Community Profiles, 1996, 2001, 2006. Statistics Canada. 2013. National Household Survey 2011 Profiles.

Educational Attainment

Figure 27 shows educational attainment in CD 18 and Saskatchewan as reported in the 2011 NHS. An overview of selected categories for educational attainment (for the population age 15 years and over) for each census year from 1996 – 2011 is presented in Table 14. In 2011 and 2006, CD 18 consistently showed lower levels of educational attainment compared to the Province with regards to 'percent with a high school certificate', 'percent with apprenticeship or trade', and 'percent with university/college education'. However, in earlier census years, CD 18 had higher proportion of the population with an apprenticeship or trade (some of this may be related to differing age categories used in the 2001 census).

¹⁷⁸ InterGroup Consultants Ltd. February 2013. *The Socio-economic Impacts of the 'Modern Era' of Uranium Mining on Northern Saskatchewan. Final Report.* Submitted to: Community Vitality Monitoring Partnership Process.
<http://www.cvmpp.ca/index.php/reports>

¹⁷⁹ InterGroup Consultants Ltd. February 2013. *The Socio-economic Impacts of the 'Modern Era' of Uranium Mining on Northern Saskatchewan. Final Report.* Submitted to: Community Vitality Monitoring Partnership Process.
<http://www.cvmpp.ca/index.php/reports>

Between 1996 and 2011, the number/proportion of Northern Saskatchewan residents 15 years and older with a high school certificate or equivalent has increased considerably. Generally, educational attainment is increasing for CD 18 over time, although still lower than for the province as a whole.

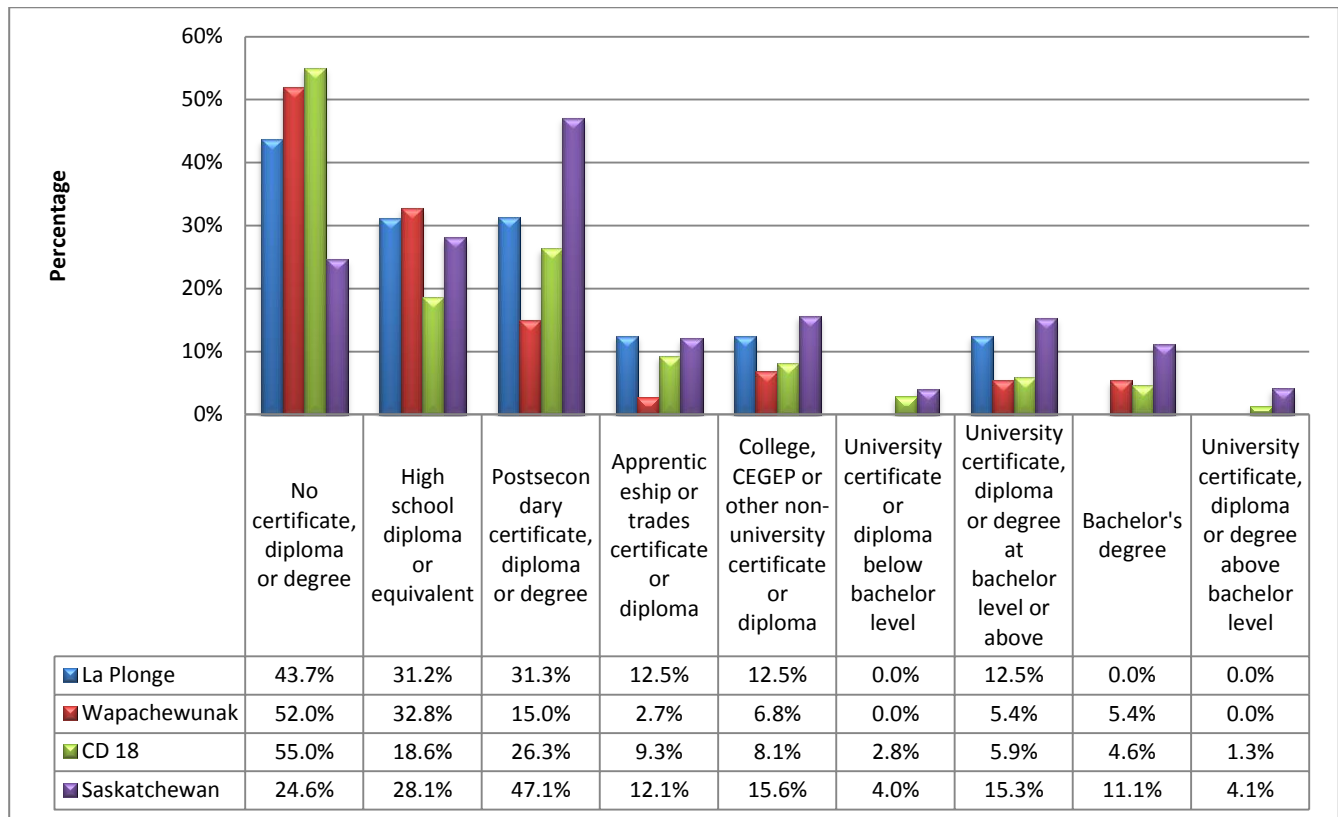


Figure 27: Educational Attainment Wapachewunak, La Plonge, CD 18 and Saskatchewan, 2011

Source: Statistics Canada. 2013. 2011 National Household Survey (NHS) Profiles. (ERFN data not available in 2011 NHS).

Note: figures for La Plonge add to more than 100% due to rounding of original data by Statistics Canada.

Table 14: Educational Attainment – Selected Categories - CD 18 and Saskatchewan, 1996 - 2011

| Educational Attainment | CD 18 | | | | Saskatchewan | | | |
|------------------------------------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|-------|--------------|-------|-------|-------|
| | 1996 | 2001 ¹⁸⁰ | 2006 | 2011 | 1996 | 2001 | 2006 | 2011 |
| Percent without certificate, diploma or degree | N/A | 45.4% | 58.3% | 55.0% | N/A | 41.8% | 30.0% | 24.6% |
| Percent with high school or equivalent | 6.5% | 24.9% | 15.6% | 18.6% | 10.6% | 28.4% | 26.8% | 28.1% |
| Percent with apprenticeship or trade | 28.7% | 25.7% | 8.4% | 9.3% | 22.7% | 15.0% | 11.2% | 12.1% |

Source: Statistics Canada Community Profile, 2006; Statistics Canada Community Profile, 2001 Note: Educational attainments in 2001 are calculated by percent of population over the age of 20 and under the age of 64, compared to 1996 and 2006, which calculated based on the population 15 years of age and over (this may impact 'percent with high school certificate' in particular); Statistics Canada Community Profile, 1996.

The Northern Saskatchewan Regional Training Needs Assessment Report 2010-2011 (Northern Labour Market Committee and Northlands College, 2011) provides training agencies and policy makers with demographic and labour market information and trends for use in identifying and addressing education and training needs. Key observations are provided in the report summary, included in its entirety here (*emphasis added*):

"The regional economy, primarily service and resource-based, is beginning to emerge from the global economic downturn: mineral exploration and mine developments are planning to proceed again after a year of slowed activity, and are expected to create new employment opportunities. Skilled trades people are needed in almost every trade and across every sector - from mining to construction to services sectors. In health care, education, child care, and social work, there are many job opportunities – both new jobs and turnover. Business and tourism services are growing and creating new jobs to serve a growing and more prosperous population.

Residents of the region are filling many of the available entry level and technical jobs at northern mine sites and many of the teaching jobs in northern schools, a result of provincial government-industry efforts in these sectors. Mine employers, however, continue to encounter challenges in recruiting residents for positions beyond entry level. Schools and health authorities in some communities continue to have high turn-over rates of professional workers. The service sector also often has difficulty in recruiting entry level workers who possess the necessary essential work skills. Over half of the working age population have less than high school education and might not have the basic education, skills, or experience required for jobs in the current labour market. Consequently, many people are unemployed, underemployed or have dropped out of the workforce altogether. At the same time, most industries are moving to higher technologies and computerization, requiring a highly skilled workforce with technical and professional training.

Gaps in education are first noticeable in the elementary grades where northern students' proficiencies in reading, writing, and math are significantly below provincial norms. Some students discontinue school before they reach high school. Of those students who achieve a Grade 12 diploma, the students are sometimes unprepared for post-secondary training or the workforce because they lack prerequisites or workplace essential skills.

¹⁸⁰ 2001 figures for CD 18 and Saskatchewan appear to be anomalous but have been verified, result from differing age categories used by Statistics Canada to collect and report data in 2001.

The northern region is home to 21% of the Aboriginal people of the province. *This young and growing population will be an important source for the future provincial and regional workforces. To achieve this, partners in education and training are working with industry to overcome education barriers*" (p. 5)

The Uranium Industry makes contributions towards education in Northern Saskatchewan. Funding is allocated towards "high school, trades, university scholarships, training, and apprenticeships".¹⁸¹ Northern Saskatchewan has a high level of educational attainment in the 'Trades', which can be attributed largely to funding from the Uranium Industry. In 2011, the uranium industry donated \$1.7 million to communities, organizations, and scholarships. Since the 1980's, Northern Saskatchewan's employment in uranium mining operations has increased; however, the Industry target for northern/Aboriginal employment has not yet been met.¹⁸²

In March 2013, the Joint Task Force on Improving Education and Employment Outcomes for First Nations and Métis People (Task Force) in Saskatchewan released its final report- **Voice, Vision and Leadership: A Place for All**. The Task Force was commissioned in cooperation by the Government of Saskatchewan and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations in March 2012. The Task Force identified 25 recommendations. Two recommendations are part of the overarching frameworks of the report:

- Dignified Mutual Relationships;
- Poverty Reduction and the Prevalence of Racism; and,
- Recognizing First Nations and Métis Cultures and Languages.

The remaining recommendations are spread across four identified mandated areas:

- Early Childhood;
- Prekindergarten to Grade 12;
- Post-secondary; and
- Labour Force Attainment.

The Task Force worked in collaboration with communities and other members of the public. In total, the Task Force conducted 83 meetings with over 1000 participants (sixteen of which were community meetings).¹⁸³

3.5.2 EMPLOYMENT BY ACTIVITY AND SECTOR

Occupation

It is noted that the Labour Force occupation categories used by Statistics Canada are slightly different between 2006 and 2011. Figure 28 shows the labour force by occupation for 2011 for CD 18 and Saskatchewan. CD 18 had a greater proportion of the population involved in education/law/social/community occupations (23%) compared to Saskatchewan (11%). Similar proportions were involved in sales and service occupations (21%) and trades/transport/equipment operator occupations (17%). A smaller proportion was involved in business, finance and administration occupations (11% vs. 15%) or management occupations (7% vs. 15%).

¹⁸¹ InterGroup Consultants Ltd. February 2013. *The Socio-economic Impacts of the 'Modern Era' of Uranium Mining on Northern Saskatchewan. Final Report*. Submitted to: Community Vitality Monitoring Partnership Process. <http://www.cvmpp.ca/index.php/reports>

¹⁸² InterGroup Consultants Ltd. February 2013. *The Socio-economic Impacts of the 'Modern Era' of Uranium Mining on Northern Saskatchewan. Final Report*. Submitted to: Community Vitality Monitoring Partnership Process. <http://www.cvmpp.ca/index.php/reports>

¹⁸³ Joint Task Force on Improving Education and Employment Outcomes for First Nations and Métis People. March 2013. *Final Report: Voice, Vision and Leadership: A Place for All*.

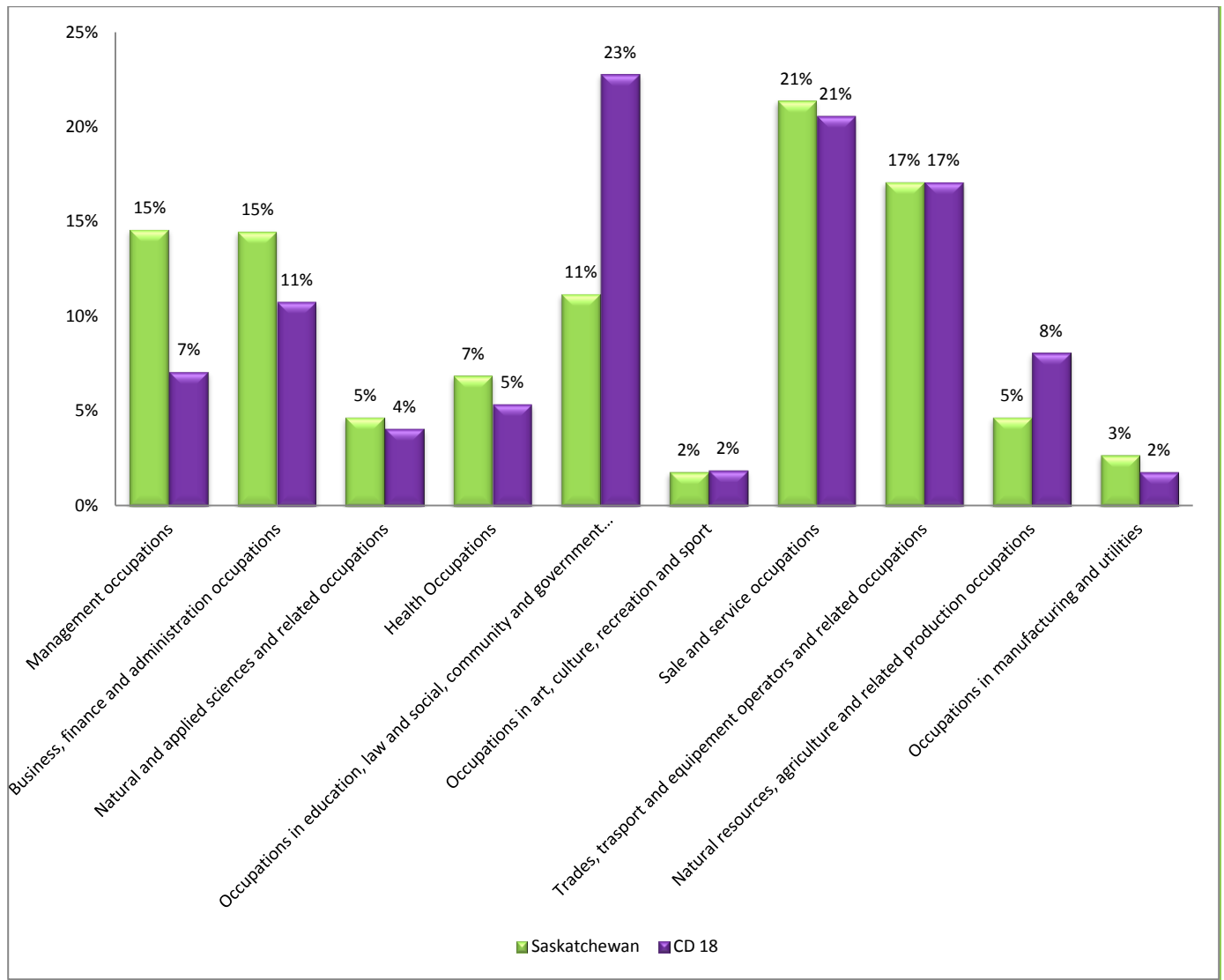


Figure 28: CD 18 and Saskatchewan Labour Force by Occupation, 2011

Source: Statistics Canada. 2013. National Household Survey (NHS) Profiles

Figure 29 compares various occupational categories for CD 18 and the Province of Saskatchewan in 2006. ‘Sales and Service’ made up the largest proportion of occupations for both CD 18 and Saskatchewan as a whole. CD 18 had a greater proportion of the population involved in social science and education occupations (16%) compared to Saskatchewan (8%), and a smaller proportion involved in business, finance and administration occupations (11% vs. 16%) or occupations unique to primary industry (8% vs. 13%).

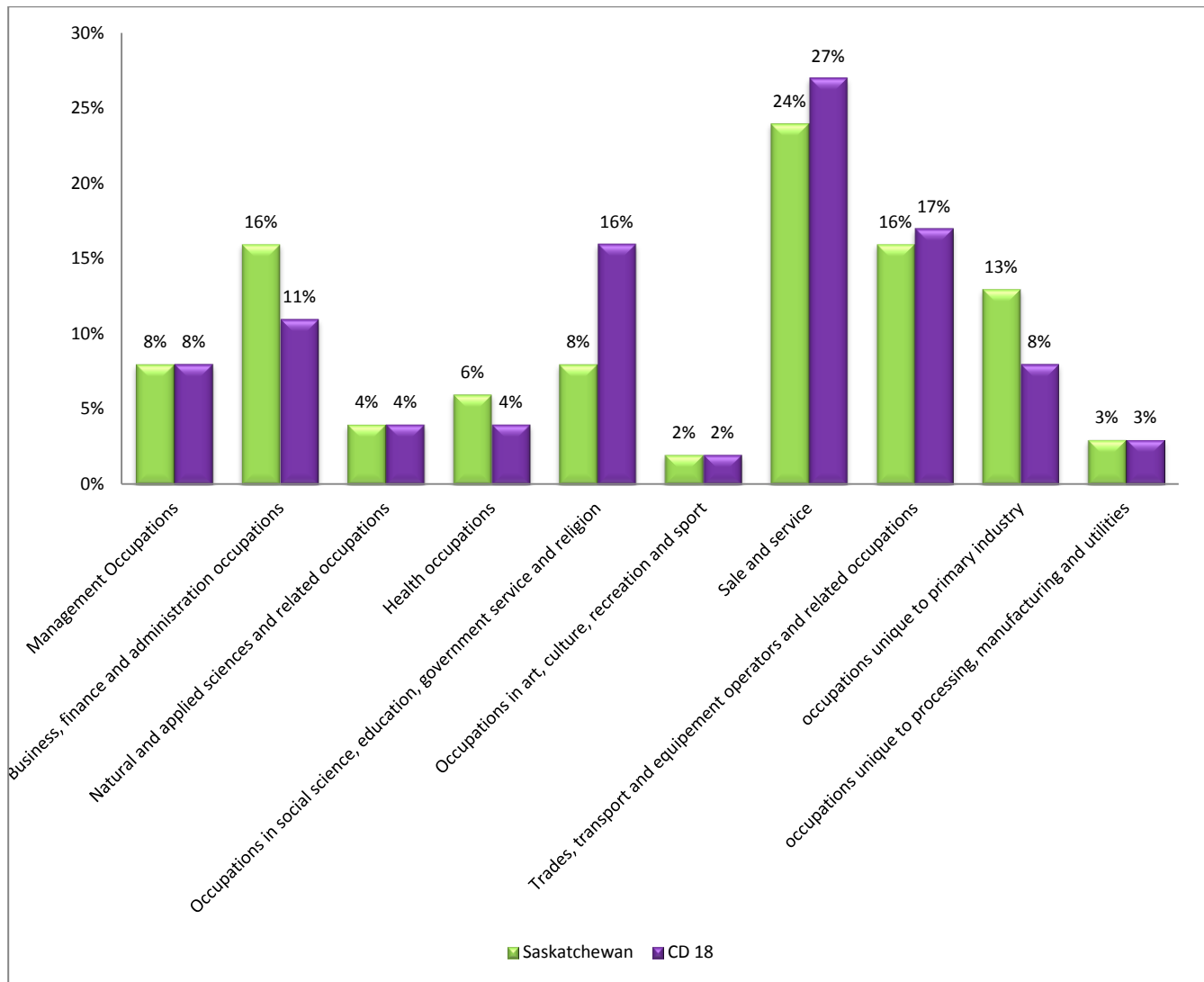


Figure 29: CD 18 and Saskatchewan Labour Force by Occupation, 2006

Raw Data Source: Statistics Canada Community Profile, 2006

Industry

It is noted that the Labour Force industry categories used by Statistics Canada are slightly different between 2006 and 2011. As shown in Figure 30, the largest industry in CD 18 in 2011 was ‘Public Administration’ (21%). The next largest Industries in CD 18 were ‘Education Services’ (15%), ‘Health Care and Social Assistance’ (13%) and ‘Mining/Quarrying/Oil and Gas Extraction’ industries’ (10%).

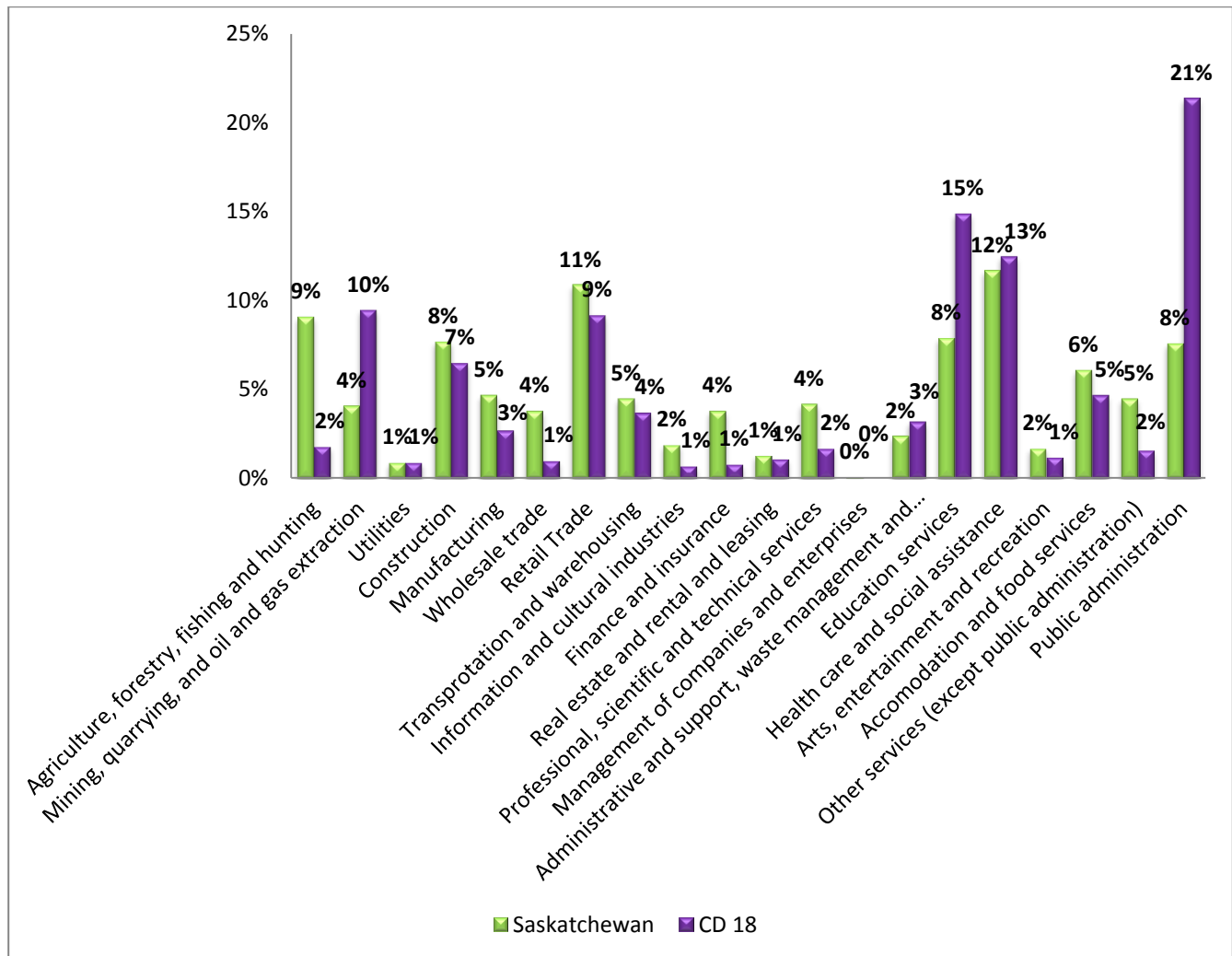


Figure 30: CD 18 and Saskatchewan Labour Force by Industry, 2011

Source: Statistics Canada. 2013. National Household Survey (NHS) Profiles.

Figure 31 compares various industry categories for CD 18 and the Province of Saskatchewan in 2006. The largest industry in CD 18 was 'Other Service' (25%). The next largest Industries in CD 18 were 'Educational Services' (16%), 'Health Care and Social Services' (14%) and 'Agriculture and other resource-based industries' (14%). Compared to the province as a whole, CD 18 had a greater proportion of people working in 'Health Care and Social Services' and 'Educational Services'.

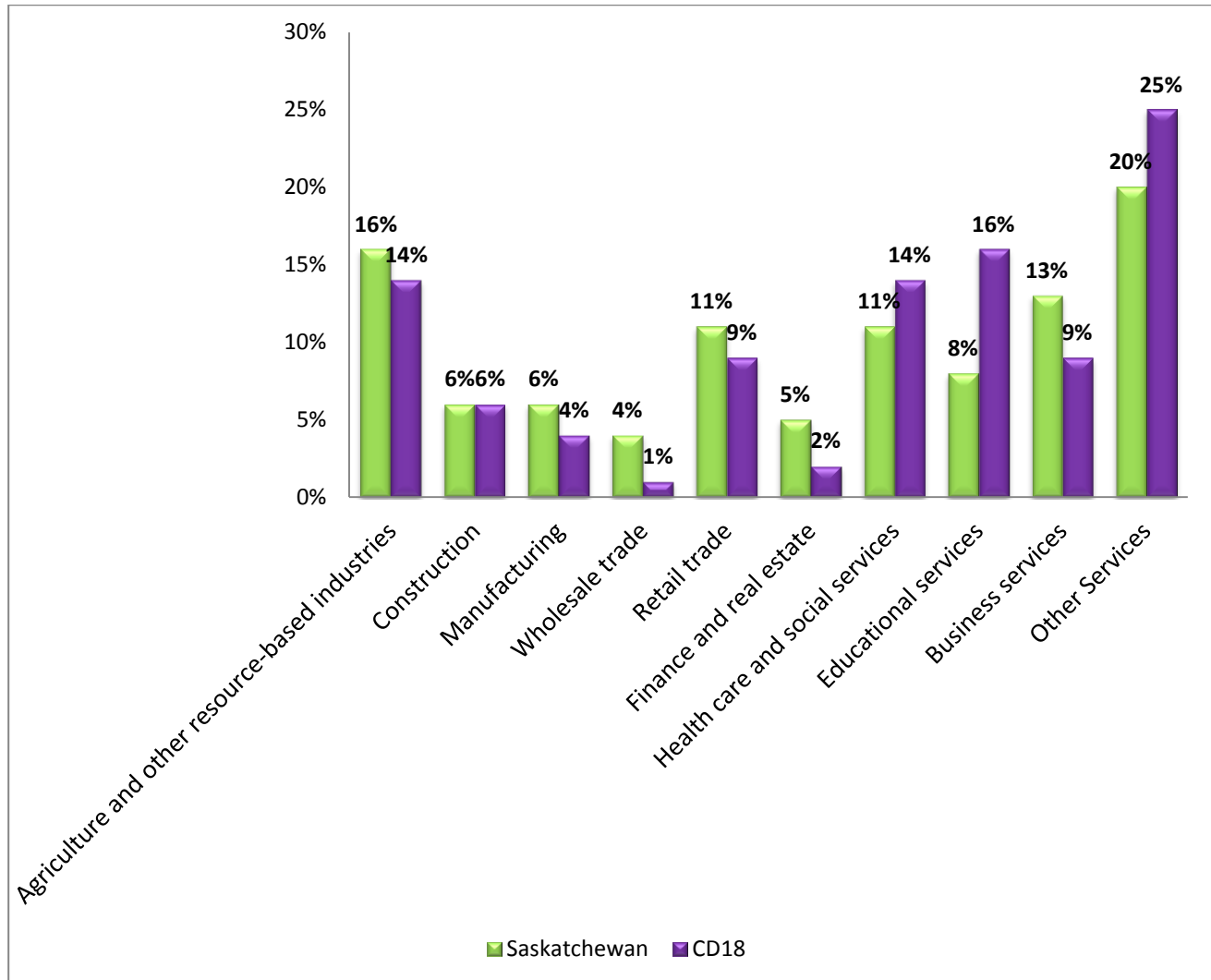


Figure 31: CD 18 and Saskatchewan Labour Force Characteristics by Industry, 2006

Raw Data Source: Statistics Canada Community Profile, 2006

3.6 BUSINESS ACTIVITY

3.6.1 ENTERPRISE REGIONS/ NORTHERN ECONOMIC SUMMIT

Enterprise Regions

The NAD is organized into three enterprise regions: Boreal West, Churchill River, and Athabasca. ERFN is located in the Boreal West Enterprise Region (BWER). However, the borders between enterprise regions are not rigid, and business and employment opportunities flow between all three enterprise regions. Funding for all three Enterprise Regions was cancelled in a recent provincial budget, and the Enterprise Region Boards continuation will be dependent upon local funding support.¹⁸⁴ A map of the Boreal West, Churchill River, and Athabasca Enterprise Regions and the communities within each region is provided below in Figure 32.

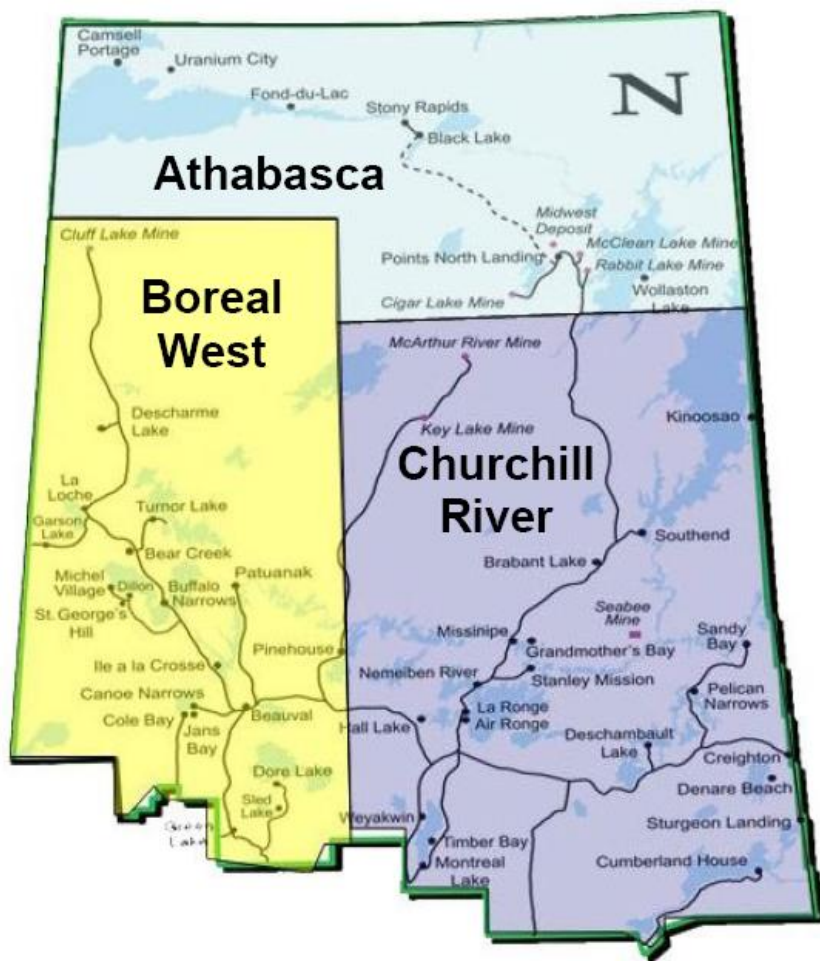


Figure 32: Boreal West, Churchill River, and Athabasca Enterprise Regions

Source: Boreal West Enterprise Region. 2012. Development Strategy. Website. <http://bwer.ca/about/>

¹⁸⁴ Opportunity North. Spring 2012. Northern Saskatchewan’s Business and Industry Magazine; Volume 19, Issue 2. Pg. 26-27.

The goal of the Boreal West Enterprise Region was to “encourage, foster, and contribute to economic growth and wealth creation in the region”¹⁸⁵. The BWER worked both alongside and through a variety of communities and organizations currently engaged in working towards creating economic development in Saskatchewan’s northwest.

The BWER was governed by a 12-person Board of Directors; members originate from or are associated directly with various communities, educational institutes, development corporations, and industries located in the region¹⁸⁶. The BWER’s Strategic Plan promoted new business, development, and employment opportunities within the region¹⁸⁷.

1. BUILD REGIONAL ECONOMIES

“Market the region and the positive aspects of the economy; be an advocate. Provide support to existing businesses within the region. This should also include labour force development”

2. FOSTER A CULTURE OF ENTERPRISE AND INNOVATION

“Be considered “investment-ready” by potential outside investors to aid in the attraction of new businesses. Facilitate job creation through retention and expansion of existing businesses”

3. BUILD ON COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGES

“Facilitate the growth of key industries and sectors in the region. Develop an integrated economic, social, and environmental approach to capitalize on the region’s natural attributes to sustain and enhance regional wealth”

4. ENGAGE LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

“Increase public awareness and engagement in economic development to identify and develop new leaders to ensure that regional growth is maintained. To engage leaders and encourage new ideas that will effectively govern and co-ordinate the economic development of the region”

Northern Economic Summit

The inaugural Northern Economic Summit was held in May 2011; a second was held in November 2012.¹⁸⁸ A Northern Summit Working Group was formed, and will continue to meet and communicate with stakeholders in the North as it moves forward on the priorities outlined in the final 2012 Northern Economic Summit Report (Nuguru Marketing and Business Consultants 2013). A work plan for 2013-2014 will guide the Working Group to bring into fruition the main recommendations of the summary report:

- Creating a governance and organizational structure that supports the ‘one voice’ concept;
- Focussing on two initiatives: road development and enhanced training; and
- Using a business case approach.

A series of reports prepared in 2010 - 2012 provide a sector-by-sector overview of the economic conditions and future projections in Northern Saskatchewan and in the three enterprise regions: Boreal West, Churchill River, and Athabasca – which approximately cover the same area as the Northern Administration District and/or Census Division 18.

The economic sectors profiled include:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| → Mineral Industry | → Construction Industry |
| → Oil and Gas Industry | → Manufacturing |
| → Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting and Trapping | → Tourism Industry |

¹⁸⁵ Boreal West Enterprise Region. 2012. Development Strategy. Website. <http://bwer.ca/about/>

¹⁸⁶ Boreal West Enterprise Region. 2012. Board of Directors. Website. <http://bwer.ca/about/>

¹⁸⁷ Boreal West Enterprise Region. 2012. Development Strategy. Website. <http://bwer.ca/about/>

¹⁸⁸ Northern Economic Summit - The Power of Partnerships. (n.d.). Website. <http://www.northerneconomicsummit.com/>

An executive summary and series of appendices from these reports have been prepared for each of the three enterprise regions¹⁸⁹:

- Executive Summary
- Appendix A: Census Demographic Profile
- Appendix B: Census Socioeconomic Profile
- Appendix C: Competitive Advantage Analysis
- Appendix D: Sector Analysis
- Appendix E: Economic Foundations
- Appendix F: Impact Analysis
- Appendix G: Opportunities, Challenges, and Initiatives

The Boreal West Sector Analysis focuses on Economic Drivers, the Economic Foundation of the Region, Economic Outlook, Regional Performance, an Impact Analysis, Regional Challenges/Opportunities Prioritized, Flagship Initiatives – Next Steps to Building a Strong Regional Foundation, and Best Practices and Jurisdictional Comparatives.¹⁹⁰ The economic drivers in the Boreal West Enterprise Region are mining, oil and gas, other resource development, construction, manufacturing and tourism. In 2011, several projects were initiated for the Boreal West Enterprise Region, including Development of Boreal Wood Resources, formation of a Regional Action Committee to Enhance Access to Ft. McMurray, and facilitation of implementation of high school work experience and mentorship programs.¹⁹¹

3.6.2 MAIN BUSINESSES

Table 15¹⁹² provides a summary of the major employers and credit lenders found within each enterprise region (Patuanak is located on the eastern boundary of the Boreal West Enterprise Region); the list is not exhaustive. There are 104 businesses located in the Boreal West Enterprise Region; 333 businesses in the Churchill River Region; and 33 companies listed in the Athabasca Region¹⁹³.

¹⁸⁹ Derek Murray and Associates, and QED Information Systems Inc. Website: <http://www.northerneconomicsummit.com/docs/PNS-Boreal-West-with-Appendices.pdf>. Executive Summary and appendices prepared various dates. Both ERFN and Pinehouse are in the Boreal West Enterprise Region; however, the Churchill River Enterprise Region is also of relevance, and to a lesser extent, the Athabasca Enterprise Region.

¹⁹⁰ Derek Murray Consulting and Associates, and QED Information Systems. March, 2011 – draft update March 2012. Sector Analysis for the Boreal West Enterprise Region. Prepared for the Northern Enterprise Council. Website: <http://www.northerneconomicsummit.com/docs/Boreal-West-Analysis-Report.pdf>

¹⁹¹ <http://www.northerneconomicsummit.com/docs/BOREAL-WEST-PROJECTS-LIST.pdf> July 2011.

¹⁹² Northern Saskatchewan Business Directory. 2012. Communities, Boreal West, Churchill River, and Athabasca Regions. Website. <http://northernbusinessdirectory.ca/index.php/communities>

¹⁹³ Northern Saskatchewan Business Directory. 2012. Communities, Boreal West, Churchill River, and Athabasca Regions. Website. <http://northernbusinessdirectory.ca/index.php/communities>

Table 15: Major Employers in the Boreal West, Churchill River, and Athabasca Enterprise Regions

| Enterprise Region | Major Employers | Credit Lenders |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Boreal West | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meadow Lake Tribal Council • Province of Saskatchewan • Keewatin Yatthé Health Authority | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Development Fund, Saskatchewan Northern Affairs • Beaver River Community Futures Development Corporation • Northern Enterprise Fund • Battlefords Credit Union • Primrose Lake Economic Development Corporation (PLEDCO) |
| Churchill River | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lac La Ronge Indian Band • Province of Saskatchewan • Mamawetan Churchill River Health Authority • Montreal Lake Cree Nation • Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation • Hudson Bay Smelting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Development Fund, Ministry of First Nations and Métis Relations • Visions North Community Futures Development Corporation • Conexus Credit Union • CIBC • Northern Enterprise Fund |
| Athabasca | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AREVA • Cameco • Athabasca Health Authority • Athabasca Labour Services • Mining Contracting Companies • Regional Government Organizations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Development Fund, Ministry of First Nations and Métis Relations • Northern Enterprise Fund • Visions North Community Futures Development Corporation • Conexus Credit Union • Saskatchewan Indian Equity Fund • SMEDCO and Clarence Campeau Development Fund |

3.6.3 MINING OPERATIONS

Table 16 summarizes mining operations in Northern Saskatchewan by resource/development stage and majority owner¹⁹⁴.

Table 16: Mining Operations in Northern Saskatchewan

| Mining Type | Name of Mine | Owner (majority owner) |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Operating Uranium Mines | McArthur River | Cameco/AREVA |
| | Rabbit Lake | Cameco |
| | Cigar Lake | Cameco/AREVA |
| | McClellan Lake | AREVA |
| | Key Lake (mill) | Cameco/AREVA |
| Gold | Seabee | Claude Resources Inc. |
| | Roy Lloyd/EP/Komis | Golden Band Resources |
| Advanced Development Projects | Midwest Project | AREVA |
| | Millennium Project | Cameco |
| Pre-Development Projects | Roughrider | Hathor Exploration |
| | Shea Creek | AREVA |
| Decommissioned Projects | Cluff Lake | AREVA |
| | Beaverlodge | Canadian Eldor |
| | Gunnar | Clean up by Saskatchewan Research Council |
| | Lorado | Clean up by Saskatchewan Research Council |

It is noted that there are seven operating mines in Northern Saskatchewan (none of which are in the Boreal West Enterprise region). For these mines, 43% of the northern-based workforce comes from the Boreal West region, 36% from Churchill River, and 21% from Athabasca.¹⁹⁵ A number of ERFN members are employed at the mines and/or by companies that service the mining industry.

From a regional perspective, between 1989 and 2011 the uranium industry reports that contracts with northern suppliers have grown from \$23 million, to \$464 million.¹⁹⁶

Additional information is available from the Saskatchewan Mining Association. The location of uranium mines is shown in the map of Northern Saskatchewan in Appendix B.

Cameco and AREVA recently negotiated a Collaboration Agreement with ERFN. In addition, Cameco is actively investing in communities around the entire NAD. Since 2004, Cameco has invested over \$7 million dollars in numerous projects and communities, such as recreational facilities, communications, education, and community development¹⁹⁷. Cameco operates a full-time office in Patuanak¹⁹⁸.

¹⁹⁵ Derek Murray Consulting and Associates. March, 2012. *Draft Boreal West Region - Looking Towards Prosperity – Developing Economic and Social Well-being in Northern Saskatchewan. Draft for Comment.* Prepared by Website: <http://www.northerneconomicsummit.com/docs/PNS-Boreal-West-Executive-Summary.pdf>

¹⁹⁶ InterGroup Consultants Ltd. February 2013. *The Socio-economic Impacts of the 'Modern Era' of Uranium Mining on Northern Saskatchewan. Final Report.* Submitted to: Community Vitality Monitoring Partnership Process. <http://www.cvmpp.ca/index.php/reports>

¹⁹⁷ Cameco Corporation. October 2011. Northern Tour 2011. Newsletter.

¹⁹⁸ Opportunity North. Spring 2012. Northern Saskatchewan's Business and Industry Magazine; Volume 19, Issue 2. Pg. 2-3.

In February 2013, the Community Vitality Monitoring Partnership Process (CVMPP) released a report identifying the socio-economic impacts associated with uranium mining in Northern Saskatchewan¹⁹⁹. “*The Socio-Economic Impacts of the ‘Modern Era’ of Uranium Mining on Northern Saskatchewan*” focuses on the following categories of direct socio-economic impacts:

- Employment
- Business Opportunities
- Socio-Economic Conditions
- Socio-Economic Indicators

Four case study communities were considered: Wollaston Lake, Hatchet Lake First Nation, Cumberland House, and Cumberland House Cree Nation.

3.6.4 INVESTMENT TRENDS AND PROJECTIONS

In northern Saskatchewan, future economic development is tied largely to the uranium mining industry, although as described in Section 3.1.4.3 above, there are base metal and gold resources being explored in the region. In 2011, the uranium industry paid the province \$145.9 million in royalties and taxes.²⁰⁰ The forest industry, once active in northern Saskatchewan, is in decline, although there are efforts underway to utilize new technologies and to explore innovative opportunities. There is a small but successful tourism industry in Northern Saskatchewan, but the remoteness of much of the region, and lack of support services, sets limitations.

The Pan-Northern Saskatchewan (PNS) Summary²⁰¹ prepared in March 2012 for the Northern Economic Summit provides a sector-by-sector overview of the economic conditions and future projections in Northern Saskatchewan. The PNS focuses on the three economic regions of Northern Saskatchewan: Boreal West, Churchill River, and Athabasca – which cover approximately the same area as the Northern Administrative District and/or CD 18. The economic sectors of Northern Saskatchewan profiled in the PNS include:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| → Mineral Industry | → Construction Industry |
| → Oil and Gas Industry | → Manufacturing |
| → Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting and Trapping | → Tourism Industry |

The PNS Summary identified the primary resource development drivers in northern Saskatchewan as:

- Mineral resources (e.g., uranium, gold, base metals)
- Oilsands (to the northwest near the Alberta border)
- Oil and gas exploration (near and in the Primrose Lake Air Weapons Range)
- Recreation and tourism (particularly focused on the northern Alberta market)
- A re-focused and recovering forestry industry
- Non-timber forest products (e.g. wild rice, spices/herbs, berries, mushrooms)

¹⁹⁹ InterGroup Consultants Ltd. February 2013. *The Socio-economic Impacts of the ‘Modern Era’ of Uranium Mining on Northern Saskatchewan. Final Report*. Submitted to: Community Vitality Monitoring Partnership Process. <http://www.cvmpp.ca/index.php/reports>

²⁰⁰ InterGroup Consultants Ltd. February 2013. *The Socio-economic Impacts of the ‘Modern Era’ of Uranium Mining on Northern Saskatchewan. Final Report*. Submitted to: Community Vitality Monitoring Partnership Process. <http://www.cvmpp.ca/index.php/reports>

²⁰¹ Derek Murray Consulting and Associates, and QED Information Systems. March 30, 2012. Looking Towards Prosperity – Developing Economic and Social Well-being in Northern Saskatchewan. Draft for Comment. <http://www.northerneconomicssummit.com/docs/PNS-Executive-Summary.pdf>

- Construction sector support of major resource development and infrastructure projects and residential construction needs
- Limited manufacturing and processing in the Churchill River Enterprise Region

It is of interest to note that between 2001 and 2006, northern Saskatchewan showed a decline of 7.7% in labour force in the Manufacturing and Processing sector. By contrast, during the same period, the northern Saskatchewan labour force in Mining, Oil and Gas increased by 11.0%.²⁰²

3.7 HEALTH INDICATORS

3.7.1 NORTHERN SASKATCHEWAN HEALTH INDICATORS REPORT

The *Northern Saskatchewan Health Indicators Report* examines the determinants of health (those things that influence individual and community health and wellness), and reports on indicators related to the health status and well-being of the northern population. Information is provided for the three northern health authorities in comparison to Saskatchewan as a whole, to other northern regions in Canada, and for trends over time²⁰³. For a variety of indicators Northern Saskatchewan fares poorly relative to Saskatchewan as a whole (e.g. income, adequate housing, crime rates, smoking rates, life expectancy, incidence of diabetes and obesity). A number of other indicators are positive or improving for northern Saskatchewan, including education levels; a natural environment that offers opportunities for traditional, cultural and social activities; and relatively high levels of Aboriginal languages in use.

3.7.2 NORTHERN ACTION PLAN

“The Northern Action Plan is a collaborative initiative between the Northern Leaders of Saskatchewan, the Government of Saskatchewan and Government of Canada to engage Northerners in a comprehensive approach that will positively influence a wide range of Northern social and economic outcomes including drug use and suicide. To this end a Northern Leaders Table has been created to work collaboratively with communities, Federal and Provincial Governments and Industry to enhance the quality of life for people in Northern Saskatchewan. The role of the Northern Leaders Table is to:

- Provide guidance and advice to the Governments of Saskatchewan and Canada respecting Northern social development priorities and measures, budget needs, and program and policy development.
- Foster an environment of collaboration and shared accountability by working together in partnership on social and economic issues and engaging Northern communities, First Nations and Métis organizations, community based organizations, Federal and Provincial Governments.
- Provide leadership on social and economic issues and opportunities in Northern communities and help facilitate and support community based solutions and dialogue to improve social outcomes in the North.” (p.3)²⁰⁴

²⁰² Derek Murray Consulting and Associates, and QED Information Systems. March 30, 2012. Looking Towards Prosperity – Developing Economic and Social Well-being in Northern Saskatchewan. Draft for Comment. <http://www.northerneconomicsummit.com/docs/PNS-Executive-Summary.pdf>

²⁰³ Irvine et al. 2011. Northern Saskatchewan Health Indicators Report. Prepared for the Athabasca Health Authority, Keewatin Yatthé Health Region, and Mamawetan Churchill River Health Region. Population Health Unit, La Ronge, Saskatchewan. http://www.populationhealthunit.ca/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=86:northern-saskatchewan-health-indicators-report-2011-release&catid=1:latest-news&Itemid=65

²⁰⁴ Northern Leaders Table. September 2012. *Northern Action Plan: Framework for Northern Saskatchewan Social Development*.

3.8 SUMMARY

Census Division 18 has approximately 36,500 residents dispersed over a large area (269,996 km²) in 45 communities (including northern hamlets, northern villages, and towns; First Nation reserves; and settlements). The regional population can be characterized as:

- Over 85% Aboriginal identity (First Nations or Métis)
- Still relying heavily on the natural environment for sustenance (fishing, hunting, trapping, gathering of wild rice and plants), and opportunities for traditional, social and cultural activities
- Demonstrating declining use of Aboriginal languages, although there are still relatively high levels of use compared to elsewhere in Saskatchewan
- Younger, and growing at a faster rate than the rest of Saskatchewan
- Transitioning from a traditional way of life to a wage economy
- Having lower levels of education (although educational attainment is improving over time) and income, lower labour force participation rates, and higher levels of unemployment, than the rest of Saskatchewan
- Faring more poorly than the rest of Saskatchewan with respect to a number of determinants of health and indicators of health status and well-being

Several communities are accessible only by air; others by gravel all-weather roads, and main centers are serviced by paved highways. Many communities have airstrips; there is no rail access in northern Saskatchewan.

The once active forestry industry is in decline; the regional economy is driven to a large extent by uranium mining and exploration, and the education and health services sectors. Exploration for other types of mineral resources is also occurring.

4.0 COMPARISON OF COMMUNITY PATTERNS WITH THE PROVINCE

4.1 POPULATION DYNAMICS

4.1.1 TREND OVER TIME

Statistics Canada census data do not accurately reflect the ERFN population on-reserve. Census data summarized in Table 3 (see Section 2.2.1.1 above) indicates that between 2006 and 2011 both Wapachewunak and La Plonge reserves experienced declines in population, while the population in northern Saskatchewan as a whole (Census Division 18²⁰⁵) grew by 7.8% and the province increased by 6.7%.²⁰⁶ This is inconsistent with data on the registered population as reported by ERFN (see Section 2.2.1.1, Figure 2 and Table 3 above) to AANDC, which shows that the ERFN 'on-reserve population' was 774 in 2011 –significantly higher (29.6%) than the total on-reserve population of 597 reported in the 2011 census. The registered population data – both total membership, on on-reserve population - indicates a growth rate over the period of 2006 to 2011 that is similar to CD 18 as a whole, and slightly higher than that for the province.

4.1.2 AGE STRUCTURE

Age Structure

As shown in Figure 33, in 2011, census data indicate that the proportion of the population between the ages of 0-14 in Wapachewunak was 32.2% (a slight increase from 30.4% in 2006). The proportion of La Plonge's population between the ages of 0-14 in 2011 was 26% (a decrease from 37% in 2006). For CD 18, the corresponding figure is 32.7% (a small decrease from 2006); for Saskatchewan the figure is 19.1% (similar to 19.3% in 2006). Data from ERFN's registered membership is shown in Figure 33 as 'ERFN Total Population'. In 2011, the ERFN membership as a whole, the Wapachewunak and La Plonge reserves and CD 18 have a larger proportion of the population aged 0-14 than Saskatchewan. Proportionately more of the population aged 65 or older live in Wapachewunak than live off-reserve or in La Plonge; however, the province of Saskatchewan has a greater proportion of the population ages 65 and over.

²⁰⁵ Census division 18 boundaries coincide with that of the Northern Administrative District/NAD or 'northern Saskatchewan').

²⁰⁶ Reasons may relate to individuals leaving the reserve for various reasons, changes in census participation rates, or other variables.

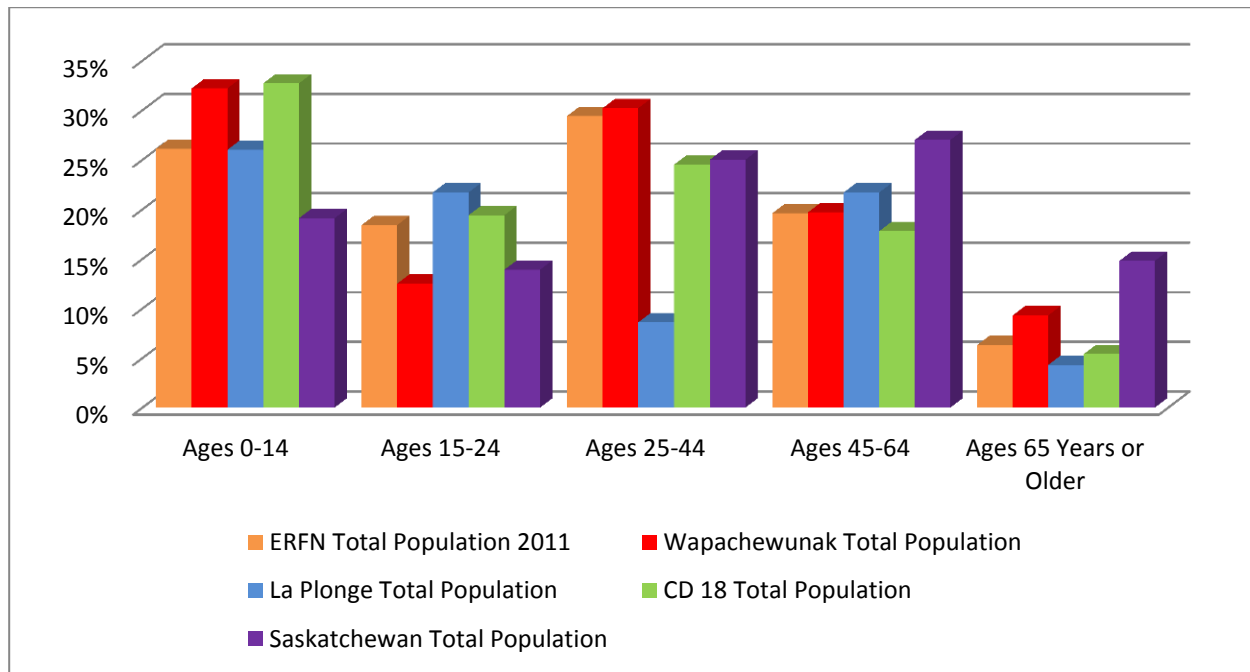


Figure 33: Population by Age Category for ERFN, ERFN Reserves, CD18 and Saskatchewan, 2011

Source: ERFN Total Population Data provided to DPRA by ERFN July 15, 2013. All other data - Statistics Canada. 2011. Community Profiles.

Census data indicate that in 2006 the ERFN communities of Wapachewunak and La Plonge (and northern Saskatchewan as a whole [CD 18]) had a relatively young population compared to Saskatchewan, as shown in Figure 34. In 2006, 27.6% of the ERFN membership was between the ages of 0-14 (corresponding figures for CD 18 were 33.9%, and 19.3% for Saskatchewan).

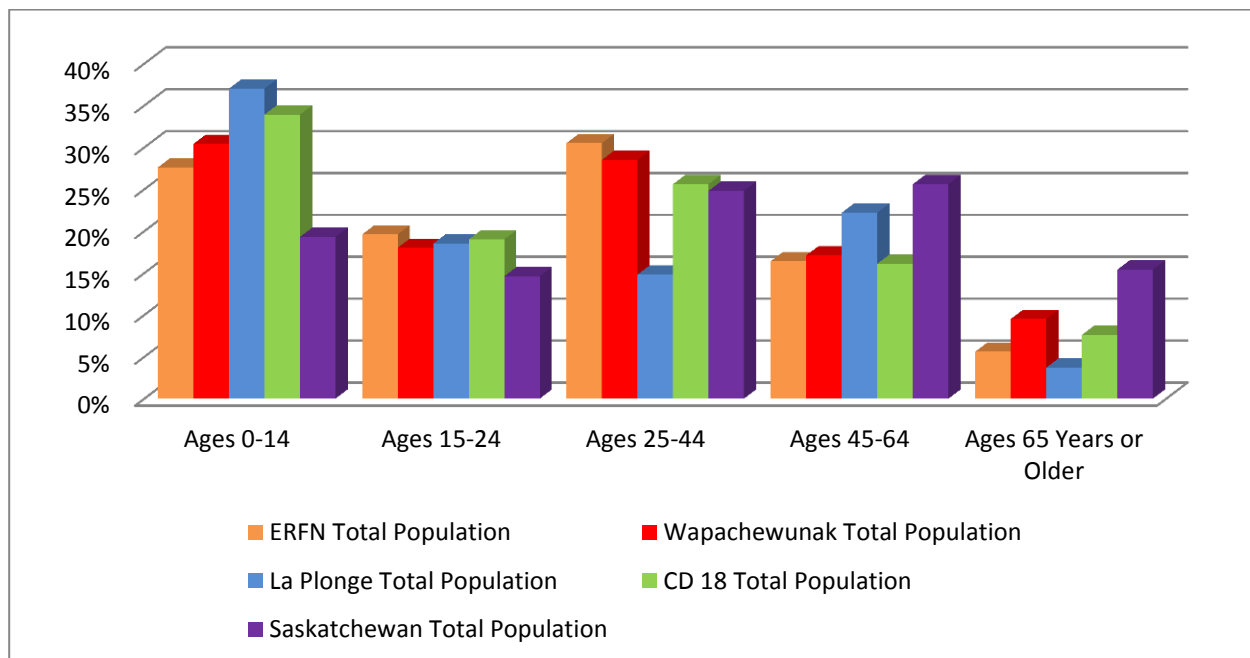


Figure 34: Population by Age Category for ERFN, ERFN Reserves, CD18 and Saskatchewan, 2006

Source: ERFN Total Population Data provided to DPRA by ERFN July 15, 2013. All other data - Statistics Canada. 2006. Community Profiles.

Median Age

Census data indicate that in 2011, the ERFN community of Wapachewunak had a median age of 32.8, while La Plonge had a median age of 28.5 – both showing an increase from 2006²⁰⁷. In 2011, the median age in CD 18 increased only slightly to 23.7, while Saskatchewan marginally decreased to 38.2. The median age of ERFN on-reserve members was 26.1 in 2006 (compared to 22.9 in CD 18 and 38.7 in Saskatchewan)²⁰⁸. The median age in 2006 was 26.8 in Wapachewunak, and 23.8 in La Plonge.

4.2 LABOUR FORCE

4.2.1 UNEMPLOYMENT & PARTICIPATION RATES

Table 17 provides the census data on unemployment rates in Wapachewunak, LaPlonge, CD 18 and Saskatchewan from 1996 to 2011. In 2011, the unemployment rate in Wapachewunak 12.5%, much less than previous census years, and lower than the rest of Northern Saskatchewan but higher than the province as a whole (census data indicates no unemployment for La Plonge). Historically, the ERFN on-reserve population has had a high unemployment rate relative to both northern Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan as a whole. In 2006 and earlier, census data indicate unemployment was historically greater in Wapachewunak, and higher in both reserve communities than CD 18 or Saskatchewan as a whole. This variation in employment rates between the two ERFN reserves could reflect a number of factors. Generally, the historically lower unemployment rate in La Plonge compared to Wapachewunak could be a result of greater proximity/accessibility to jobs, or a smaller population. It is understood that the on-reserve unemployment rate is higher than off-reserve employment rates for ERFN members.

Table 17: Wapachewunak, La Plonge, CD 18 and Saskatchewan Unemployment Rates, 1996-2011

| Year | Wapachewunak | La Plonge | CD 18 | Saskatchewan |
|------|--------------|-----------|-------|--------------|
| 1996 | 31.0% | 25.0% | 20.2% | 7.2% |
| 2001 | 33.3% | 37.5% | 24.2% | 6.3% |
| 2006 | 40.7% | 22.2% | 20.2% | 5.6% |
| 2011 | 12.5% | 0% | 17.9% | 5.9% |

Source: Statistics Canada, Community Profiles, 1996, 2001, 2006. Statistics Canada. 2013. National Household Survey (NHS) 2011 Profiles.

In 2006, the ERFN on-reserve population had a labour force participation rate of 38.7%, below the 50.4% regional and 68.4% provincial rates²⁰⁹. Participation in the labour force increased in 2011 compared to 2006 for both Wapachewunak (43.8%) and La Plonge (50.0%), similar to the rate for CD 18 (46.7%) but lower than for Saskatchewan (69.2%).

²⁰⁷ Statistics Canada. 2012. *Wapachewunak 192D, Saskatchewan (Code 4718814) and Division No. 18, Saskatchewan (Code 4718)* (table). *Census Profile*. 2011 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-XWE. Ottawa. Released May 29, 2012. <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E>

(accessed August 9, 2012).

²⁰⁸ Statistics Canada 2006 community profiles.

²⁰⁹ http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/FNP/Main/Search/FNWorkforce.aspx?BAND_NUMBER=400&lang=eng

4.2.2 POPULATION BY EDUCATION/TRAINING ATTAINMENT

Educational attainment (age 15 years and over) for ERFN, CD 18, and Saskatchewan from the 2011 NHS and 2006 census is provided in Figures 35 and 36 (and in Section 2.2.1.3, above). Generally, the level of education/training has increased for ERFN on-reserve members since 2006, as shown for example in the percentage of the population with a high school diploma or university degree. In many cases the levels of attainment are higher than for CD 18, but are generally less than the province of Saskatchewan.

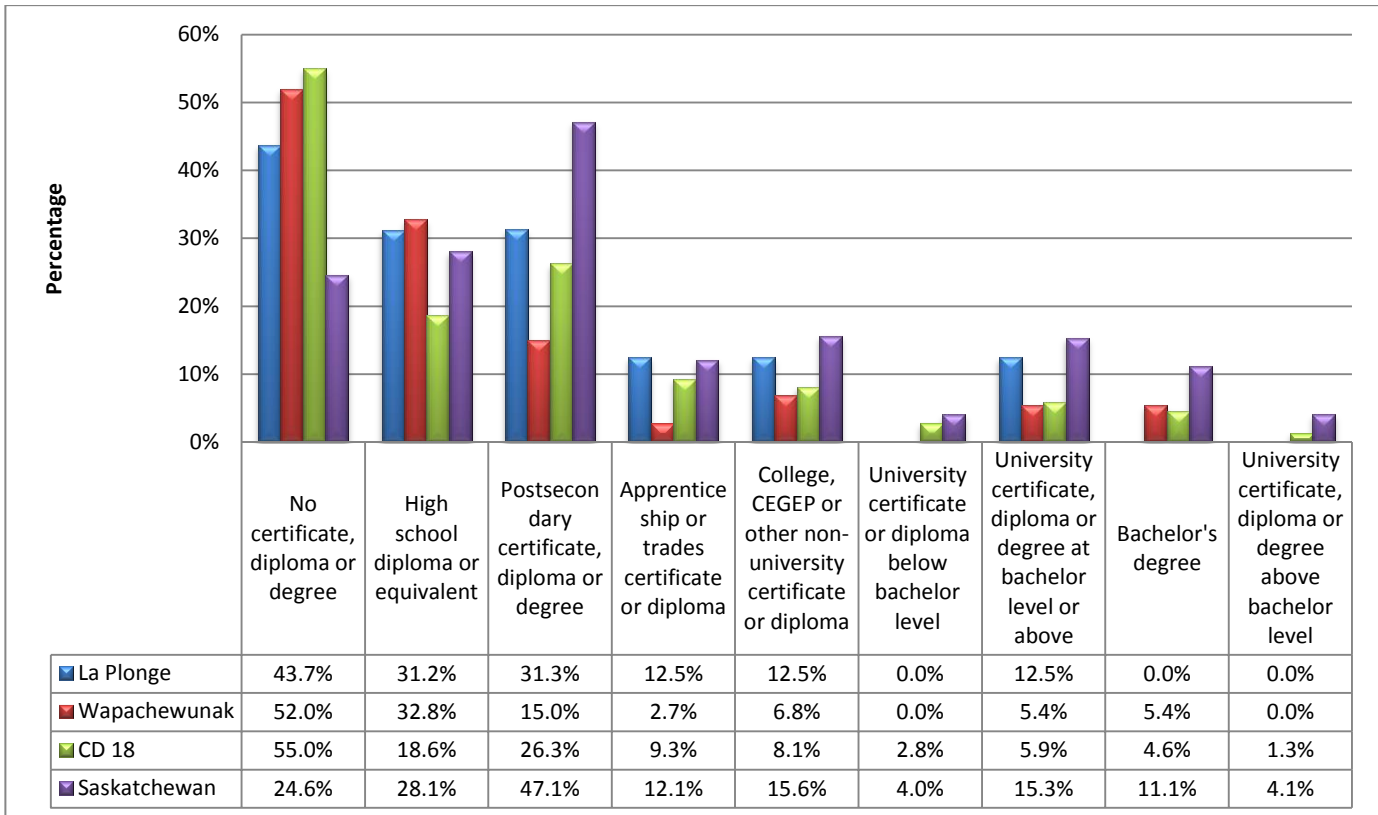


Figure 35: Educational Attainment Wapachewunak, La Plonge, CD 18 and Saskatchewan 2011

Source: Statistics Canada. 2013. 2011 National Household Survey (NHS) Profiles. (ERFN data not available in 2011 NHS).

Note: figures for La Plonge add to more than 100% due to rounding of original data by Statistics Canada.

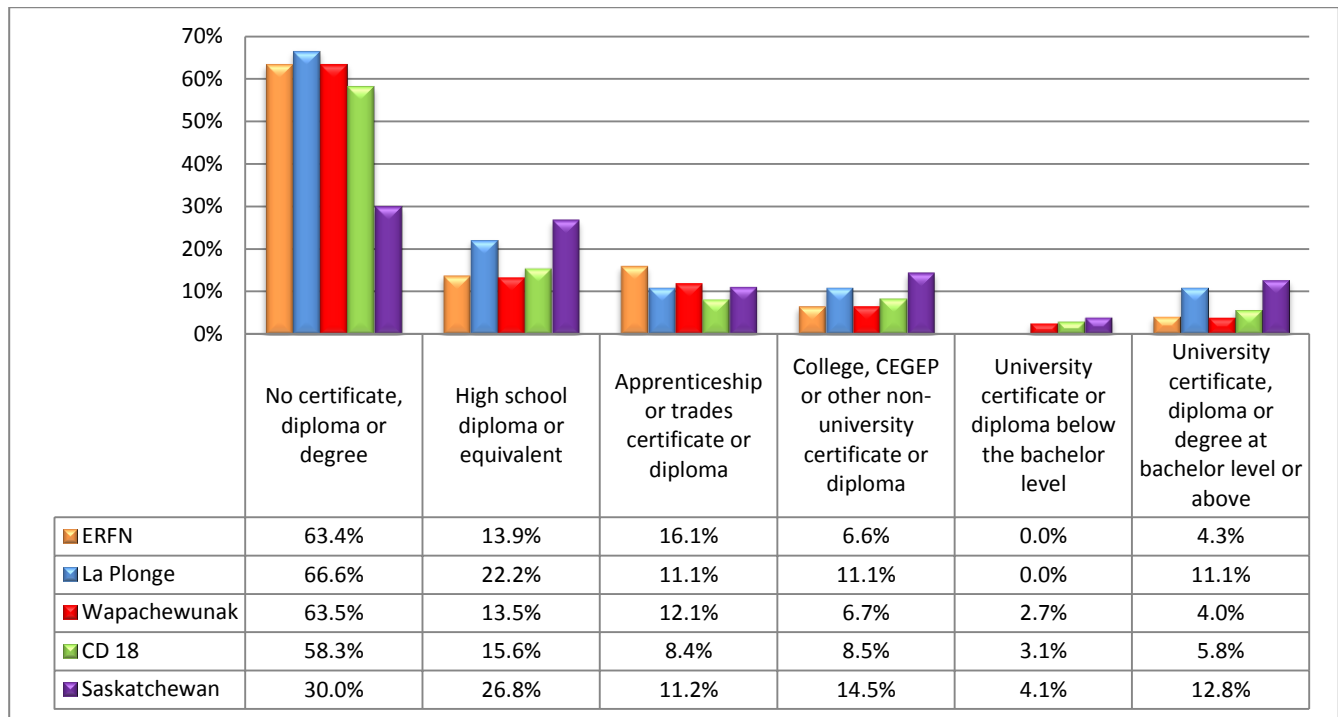


Figure 36: Educational Attainment ERFN On-Reserve, Wapachewunak, La Plonge, CD 18 and Saskatchewan 2006

Source: Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. First Nation Profiles 2006; Statistics Canada 2006 Community Profiles. Note: figures for La Plonge and Wapachewunak add to more than 100% due to rounding of original data by Statistics Canada.

4.2.3 EMPLOYMENT BY ACTIVITY AND SECTOR

Figures 37 and 38 compares labour force activity by industry for ERFN, CD 18 and Saskatchewan in 2011 and 2006. It is noted that the Labour Force industry categories used by Statistics Canada are slightly different between 2006 and 2011. As shown in Figure 11, in 2011 a greater proportion of the labour force in La Plonge and Wapachewunak are employed in mining (quarrying, oil and gas extraction) and public administration than the labour force for CD 18 or Saskatchewan. Relatively fewer work in retail or health and social assistance industries. In 2006, compared to CD 18 and Saskatchewan, ERFN had a higher proportion of persons employed in ‘agriculture/other resource-based’ industries, ‘construction’ and ‘other services’. Additional information is provided in Sections 2.2.1.2 and 3.5.2 above.

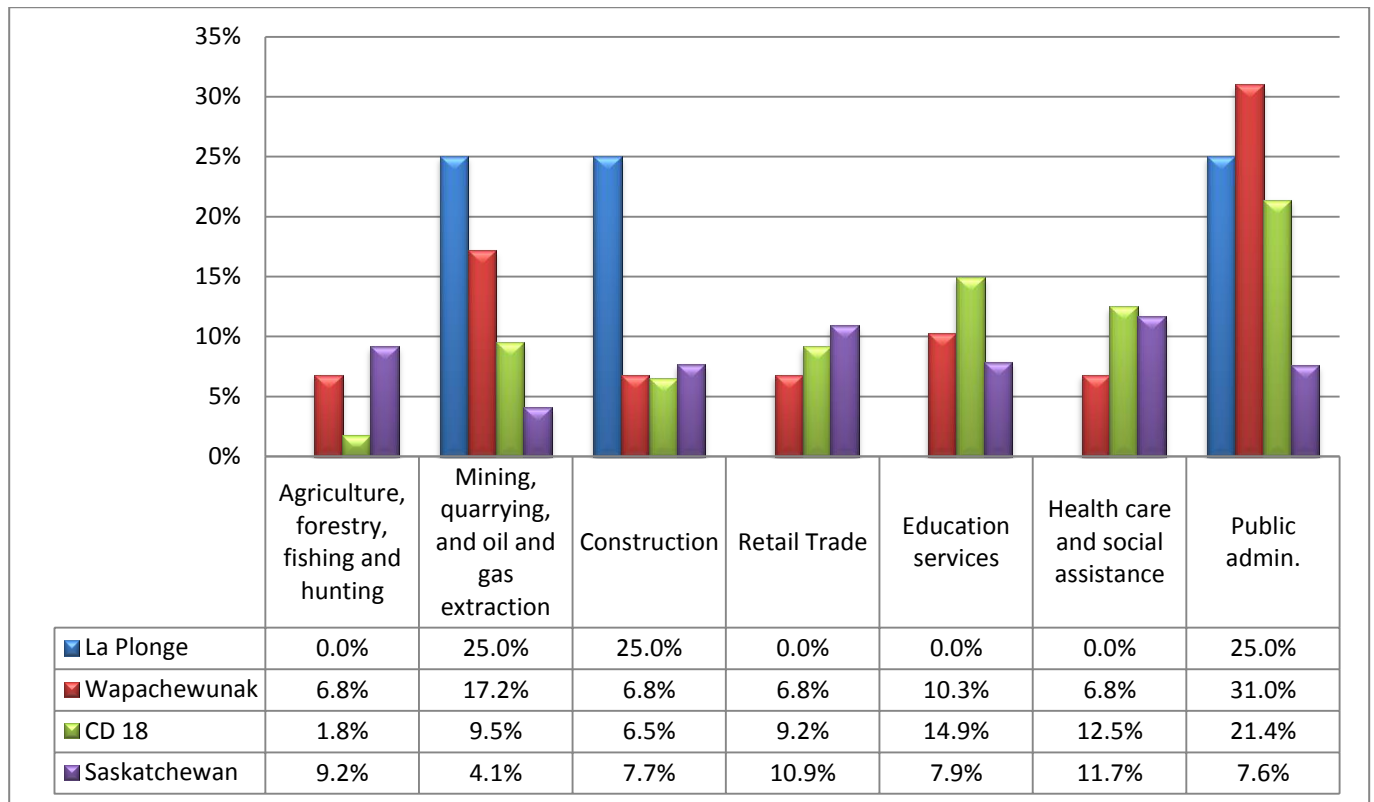


Figure 37: Labour Force by Industry, 2011

Source: Statistics Canada. 2013. National Household Survey (NHS) Profiles. Notes: The % for La Plonge do not add to 100%, due to rounding of original data by Statistics Canada. For Wapachewunak, 6.6% of labour force in industries were employed in 'industry-not applicable'; therefore percentages in figure do not add to 100%.

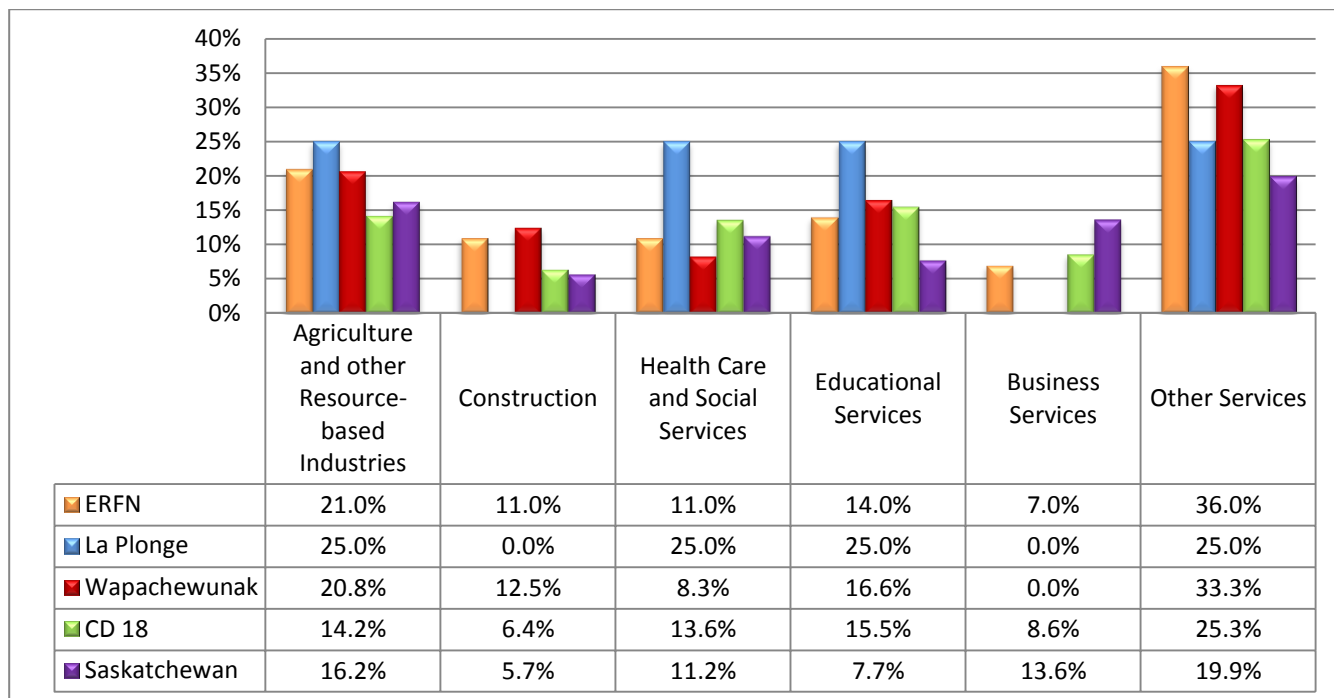


Figure 38: Labour Force by Industry, 2006

Source: Statistics Canada 2006 Aboriginal Population Profiles. Statistics Canada. 2006 Community Profiles.

4.3 COMMUNITY PATTERNS WITH PROVINCE SUMMARY

The available data indicate that overall, ERFN has many similarities with CD 18/northern Saskatchewan as a whole, while both ERFN and CD 18 differ from the Province of Saskatchewan with respect to a number of indicators:

- Population data for ERFN and the two main reserves from the census is inconsistent with that reported by ERFN. The trends indicated by census data do not reflect actual conditions in the reserve communities of Wapachewunak and La Plonge. ERFN data shows that between 2004 and 2013 ERFN’s total membership increased from 1,222 to 1,480 (258 people, or 21%). The ERFN on-reserve population also increased between 2004 and 2011, but has begun to decline. The off-reserve population increased from 575 to 707 members between 2004 and 2013. Census data indicate that ERFN’s on-own-reserve population declined between 2006 and 2011 to 597 (while CD 18 and Saskatchewan populations were growing), although ERFN/AANDC data indicates that 732 ERFN members were living on their own reserve (580 in Wapachewunak and 152 in La Plonge) in June 2013. This is a significantly higher number than implied by census data, and a 10.1% increase from 2006 census figures. The registered population data – both total membership, on on-reserve population - indicates a growth rate over the period of 2006 to 2011 that is similar to CD 18 as a whole, and slightly higher than that for the province.
- The ERFN’s on and off-reserve age structure and median age indicate a relatively young population (although not to the extent of CD 18) compared to Saskatchewan as a whole. Wapachewunak, La Plonge, ERFN and CD 18 have a larger proportion of their population between the ages of 0 and 14, compared to the province. ERFN has a slightly lower proportion of the population age 0-14 than CD 18 as a whole. Proportionately more of the population aged 65 or older live in Wapachewunak than live off-reserve or in La Plonge; however, the province of Saskatchewan has a greater proportion of the population ages 65 and over.

- In 2011, the ERFN community of Wapachewunak had a median age of 32.8, while La Plonge had a median age of 28.5 – both showing an increase from 2006. In 2011, the median age in CD 18 increased only slightly to 23.7, while Saskatchewan marginally decreased to 38.2.
- In 2011, the unemployment rate in Wapachewunak 12.5%, much less than reported in previous census years, and lower than the rest of Northern Saskatchewan but higher than the province as a whole (census data indicates no unemployment for La Plonge for 2011).
- Generally, levels of educational attainment on-reserve have been improving since 2006, and in many cases are higher than for CD 18, but are still lower than for the province as a whole.
- Participation in the labour force increased in 2011 compared to 2006 for both Wapachewunak (43.8%) and La Plonge (50.0%), similar to the rate for CD 18 (46.7%) but lower than for Saskatchewan (69.2%).
- Generally, the level of education/training has increased for ERFN on-reserve members since 2006, as shown for example in the percentage of the population with a high school diploma or university degree. In many cases the levels of attainment are higher than for CD 18, but are generally less for the province of Saskatchewan.
- In 2011 a greater proportion of the labour force in La Plonge and Wapachewunak were employed in mining (quarrying, oil and gas extraction) and public administration than the labour force for CD 18 or Saskatchewan. Relatively fewer work in retail or health and social assistance industries.

5.0 SUMMARY

The Dene people of ERFN live on-reserve at Patuanak or LaPlonge (near Beauval); off-reserve members are located in Île-à-la-Crosse, Beauval, Prince Albert, Saskatoon and other communities. The natural environment and traditional activities on the land and water continue to be very important to members of the ERFN. The community has faced significant social, cultural and economic changes in a relatively short period, particularly since the 1970s when the road was built. ERFN continues its efforts to address challenges related to housing, education, employment, health and social services. Geographically, Patuanak is relatively isolated, the only community (other than the Northern Hamlet of Patuanak) on Highway 918.

A number of initiatives and community characteristics in ERFN are contributing to a sense of opportunity moving forward. These include:

- The visioning process initiated in fall 2012, expected to be completed in fall 2013;
- Tron Power, other ERFN companies, and joint ventures – successful business models that contribute financially to the community – providing employment, training and dividends for reinvestment;
- Development of additional land base for new infrastructure across the Willow Heart Bridge;
- Ongoing progress with the Treaty Land Entitlement process and acquisition of additional reserve lands;
- Relatively young population (also a challenge);
- Increasing success with education and training of youth and adults;
- Participation in land and resource management with other partners, e.g., co-management activities with the province and participation on the EQC; and
- The Collaboration Agreement recently negotiated between ERFN and Cameco/AREVA.

Future economic development is tied largely to continuing the success of ERFN's businesses and joint ventures, which are diversified beyond the mining industry. The uranium mining industry dominates the regional economy, although there are base metal and gold resources being explored in the region. The once active forest industry is in decline. There is a small but successful tourism industry in Northern Saskatchewan, although the remoteness of much of the region, and lack of support services, sets limitations. ERFN continues to position itself to be better able to participate in regional and community economic development, including mining and other sectors. Larger centers such as Meadow Lake, Prince Albert and Saskatoon offer a range of services and economic opportunities for Patuanak and other communities. At a regional level, partnerships and interactions such as those with MLTC, the Northern Economic Summit, and the Northern Leaders Table provide opportunities for collective action that will contribute to improved well-being in northern Saskatchewan.

APPENDIX A: BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Executive Summary (March 2012)
 - Appendix A: Census Demographic Profile (March 2010)
 - Appendix B: Census Socioeconomic Profile (March 2010)
 - Appendix C: Competitive Advantage Analysis (January 2011 – Updated March 2012)
 - Appendix D: Sector Analysis (January 2011 (Updated April 2012)
 - Appendix E: Economic Foundations (January 2011 – Updated April 2012)
 - Appendix F: Impact Analysis (January 2011 – Updated March 2012)
 - Appendix G: Opportunities, Challenges, and Initiatives (January 2011 – Updated May 2012)

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APPENDIX B: MAP OF NORTHERN SASKATCHEWAN

The map of Northern Saskatchewan (July 5, 2013) is provided as a separate pdf file accompanying this profile document; hard copies of the map have been provided with the original document provided to the community.