



FIRST NATION COMMUNITY PROFILE



About ENGLISH RIVER FIRST NATION

English River First Nation (ERFN) is comprised of nineteen different Reserves. Prior to signing Treaty 10, The Poplar House People resided at seven historical settlements, including: Cree Lake, Porter Island, Elak Dase, Knee Lake, Dipper Rapids, Wapachewunak, and La Plonge. The home reserves are located at Wapachewunak, near the Churchill River, and La Plonge, on the Beaver River. The river provides transportation and allows for fishing, hunting, and gathering. It also provides economic opportunities for outfitting and tourism. English River First Nation is a Dene and Cree community. ERFN has a vibrant economy with many people owning businesses or being employed through the First Nation.

HIGHLIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- On August 28, 1906, Chief William Apesis signed Treaty 10 on behalf of English River First Nation.
- Des Nedhe Group, ERFN's economic and employment development entity, continues to create economic and employment opportunities for their members.
- Tron Construction & Mining, 100% owned by ERFN, provides multi-disciplinary general contracting services as well as heavy earth moving in mining, construction, and maintenance contracts.
- English River Enterprise, 100% owned by ERFN, operates Grasswood Travel and Business Centre south of Saskatoon, which includes 80,000 square feet of office space, a gas, convenience and liquor store, two commercial strip malls, and other warehousing buildings.
- Creative Fire, 100% owned by ERFN, offers public and media relations; Indigenous inclusion and community engagement strategies; design and content for digital, print and social platforms; event planning and management.
- Neetah Construction, 51% owned by Des Nedhe, is a multi-service, multi-disciplinary, heavy civil and roadbuilding construction and maintenance company.
- Forestry and mining are key partners and employers of ERFN.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Total Population: 1,952 persons (November, 2025)

On Reserve: 857 persons | Off Reserve: 1,095 persons

Total Reserves/Settlements/Villages: 62,445 acres

(Source: Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, https://fnp-ppn.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/FNMain.aspx?BAND_NUMBER=400&lang=eng.)

TRIBAL COUNCIL AFFILIATION

Meadow Lake Tribal Council (MLTC) Member

ECONOMICS

IN SASKATOON REGION

Land Holdings (Total)	134.61 acres
Rural Reserve: RM of Corman Park, Highway 11 South	134.61 acres
Employment (On Reserve)	
Full Time, Part-Time, Seasonal Employees	535 (as of 2020)
Business Developments	
Athabasca Catering	
Aurora Renewables	
Cedar Leaf Capital	
Creative Fire	
Datsa Dynamics	
Des Nedhe Resources	
Des Nedhe Utility	
Ela Hultsi	
Grasswood Gas Bar and Convenience Store	
Grasswood Junction	
JNE Welding	
Morsky Industrial Services Ltd.	
Neetah Construction	
Northern Resource Trucking	
The Patch Liquor Store	
Tamarack Mining Services	
Tron Construction & Mining	

OUTSIDE SASKATOON REGION

Beauval General Store and Gas Bar
Patuanak Gas Bar and Convenience Store

Source: English River First Nation.



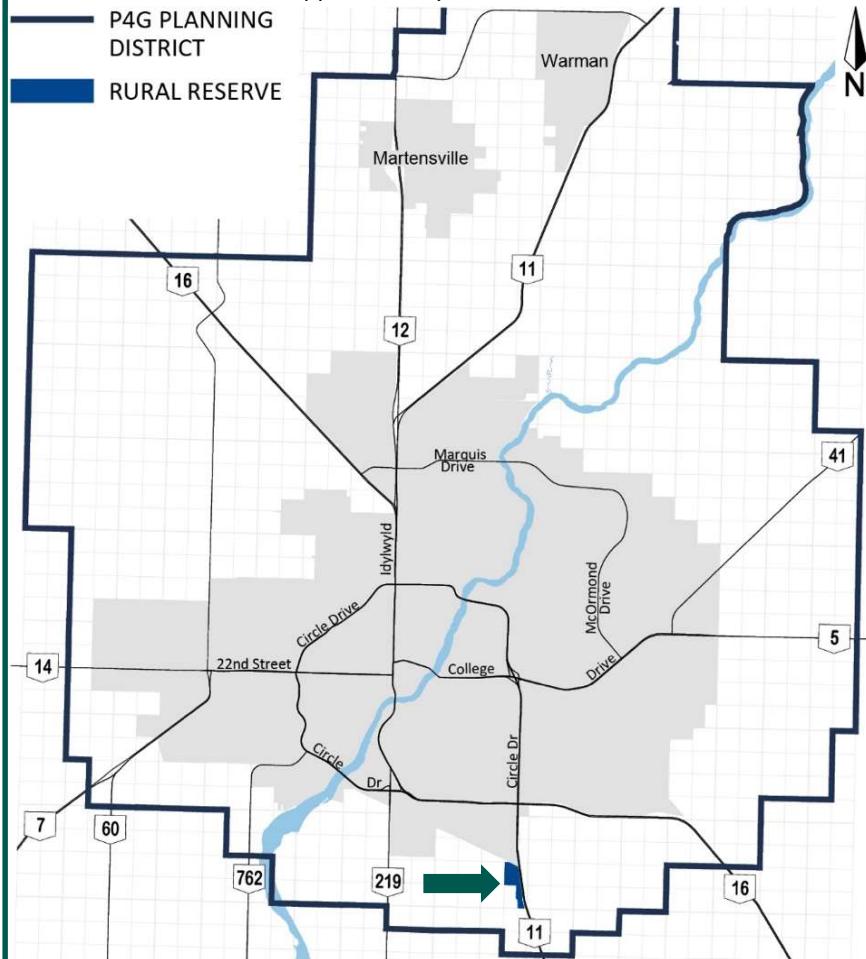


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English River First Nation Land Holdings

City of Saskatoon and Region

Approximately 134.61 acres



HOME RESERVE INFORMATION

Location

The home reserves are located at Wapachewunak, west of the Shagwanew Rapids on the Churchill River and at La Plonge, located on the Beaver River. English River First Nation is both a Dene and Cree speaking community that is accessible by Provincial Road 918.

Services

Community facilities include: band office, Canada Post office, William Apesis Memorial band hall, St. Louis School, Great River Health Clinic, CPAT 89.9 radio station, youth centre, gas bar, fish plant, day care, Ovide G. McIntyre Memorial Arena and Curling Rink, St. Louis Roman Catholic Church, RCMP detachment, and Lein Wolverine Park.

Education

Education has always been important to ERFN. Historically, children attended residential schools in Ile a la Crosse and La Plonge Reserve. A local elementary school, St. Louis School, was built in 1971, with a modern successor in 1995. In 2000, it was updated and expanded to include a high school, eliminating the need for students to travel outside the community for educational training.

GOVERNANCE

Chief: Alfred Dawatzare

Councillors: Lewis Black

Maurice Gunn

Bruce McIntyre

Randy McIntyre

Joey Paul

Jenny Wolverine

Election Term: October 26, 2023 to
October 26, 2027

CONTACT INFORMATION

English River First Nation

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<https://erfn.net/>

Des Nedhe Developments (Saskatoon)

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FOR MORE INFORMATION



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