



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 Apeis 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://fnppn.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)
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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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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

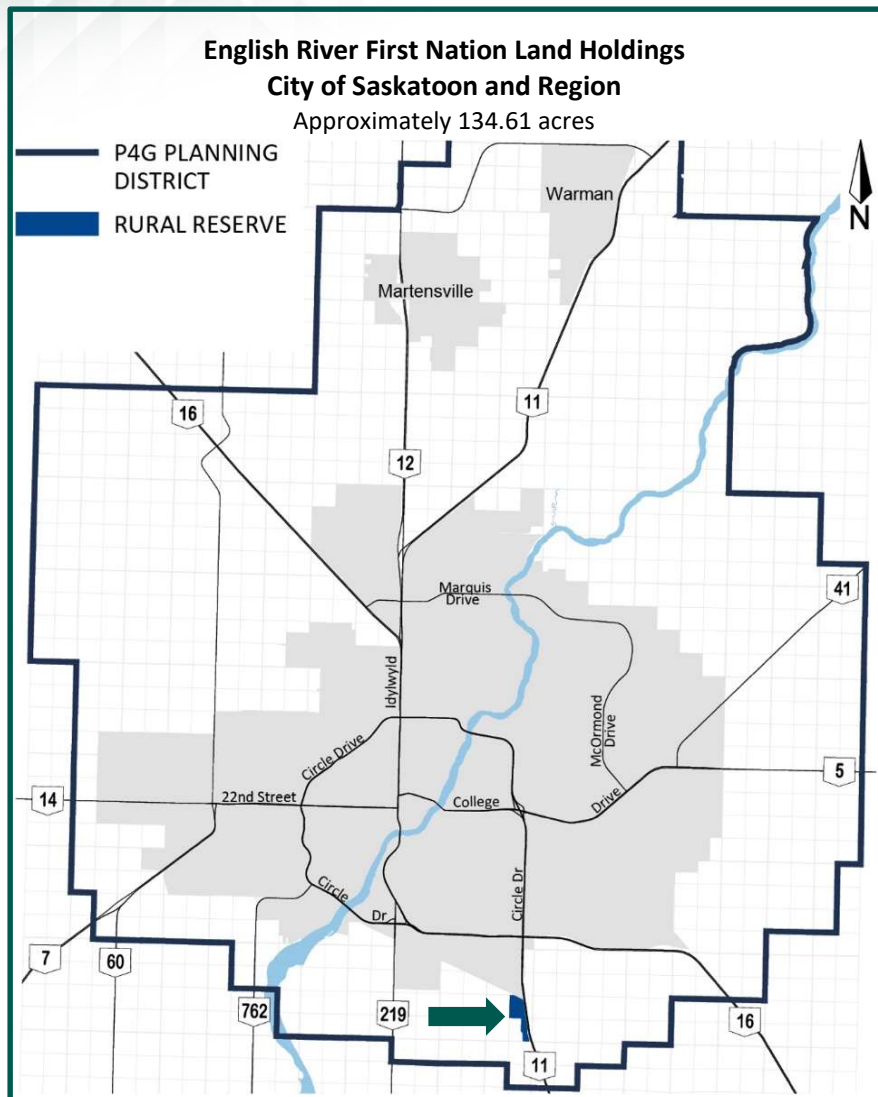
CONTACT INFORMATION

English River First Nation

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<https://erfn.net/>

Des Nedhe Developments (Saskatoon)

301-2555 Grasswood Road E., Saskatoon, SK S7T 0K1
306-652-4989, Fax 306-374-9131



FOR MORE INFORMATION



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Saskatoon Regional Economic Development Authority (SREDA)
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