



About THUNDERCHILD FIRST NATION

Thunderchild First Nation, also known as piyesiw-awasis, is an independent Cree First Nation band government near Turtleford, Saskatchewan, with no affiliation with any Tribal Council, and is located approximately 113 kilometres northwest of North Battleford. The reserve was moved from its original location near Delmas, Saskatchewan, in 1909 to where it now currently resides near Turtleford, Saskatchewan. Approximately one third of the membership lives on the home reserve (<https://www.thunderchild.ca/>).

HIGHLIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- In early 2019, Thunderchild First Nation achieved Urban Reserve designation for the Husky Gas & Convenience Store (formerly Retro Petro), located at 1135 Idylwyld Drive North in Saskatoon.
- Municipal Agreements were signed by Chief Wapass and Council and City of Saskatoon Mayor Clark and Council, on January 29, 2018, by way of a special signing ceremony.
- Thunderchild has established a recently formalized investment with Calgary-based Westleaf Cannabis, which will create up to 150 new jobs.
- Chief Gordon Thunderchild Commercial Centre, located on the home reserve, includes a gas station, grocery store, restaurant, and billiards. The Centre is named for the grandson of Piyesiw Awasis (Chief Thunderchild).
- Thunder Developments Inc. is engaged in a business partnership with Prairie Thunder, a shareholder in West Leaf Capital Inc., and has recently purchased Xterra Energy Services.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Total Population: 3,175 persons (November, 2025)
On Reserve: 1,434 persons | Off Reserve: 1,741 persons
Total Reserves/Settlements/Villages: 67,285 acres
(Source: Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, https://fnppn.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/FNMain.aspx?BAND_NUMBER=349&lang=eng)

TRIBAL COUNCIL AFFILIATION

Independent First Nation

ECONOMICS

IN SASKATOON REGION

Land Holdings (Total)	0.25 acres
Urban Reserve: 1135 Idylwyld Drive North	0.25 acres
Employment (On Reserve)	
Full Time, Part-Time, Seasonal Employees	14 (as of 2022)

OUTSIDE SASKATOON REGION

Chief Gordon Thunderchild Commercial Centre Ltd
Prairie Thunder Resources
Thunder Development Inc.
Thunderchild Energy Services Ltd.
Thunder Farms Ltd.
Thunder Investments Ltd.
Thunder Oil Ltd.
Thunder Security Ltd.
Westleaf Inc.

Source: [Thunderchild First Nation](#)





FIRST NATION COMMUNITY PROFILE

HOME RESERVE INFORMATION

Location

The home reserve is located about 10 kilometres southwest of Turtleford, SK.

Services

Health care services such as home care and health nurses are available, as well as social development and community wellness support. There are also coordinated youth sports and adult sports programs managed by the members. Once construction of the new wellness center is complete, it will provide health care facilities, meeting rooms, a hockey arena, and a field house for the community. In 2022, Thunderchild celebrated the reopening of the Ochipwao Cultural Centre, which is administered by Awasisak Nikan Child and Family Services.

Education

Built in 2002, Piyesiw Awasis Community School provides educational opportunities for approximately 300 students from Kindergarten to Grade 12. The school is a state-of-the-art place of learning with a focus on incorporating culture, language, and identity into both the design of the building and in the programs offered to students. The building resembles an eagle from above and features a teepee-shaped culture room. Community Elders are honored through photographs placed on the interior and exterior of the building. Post-secondary educational opportunities and support are also available to members through the Active Support for Education and Training Strategy (ASETS).

GOVERNANCE

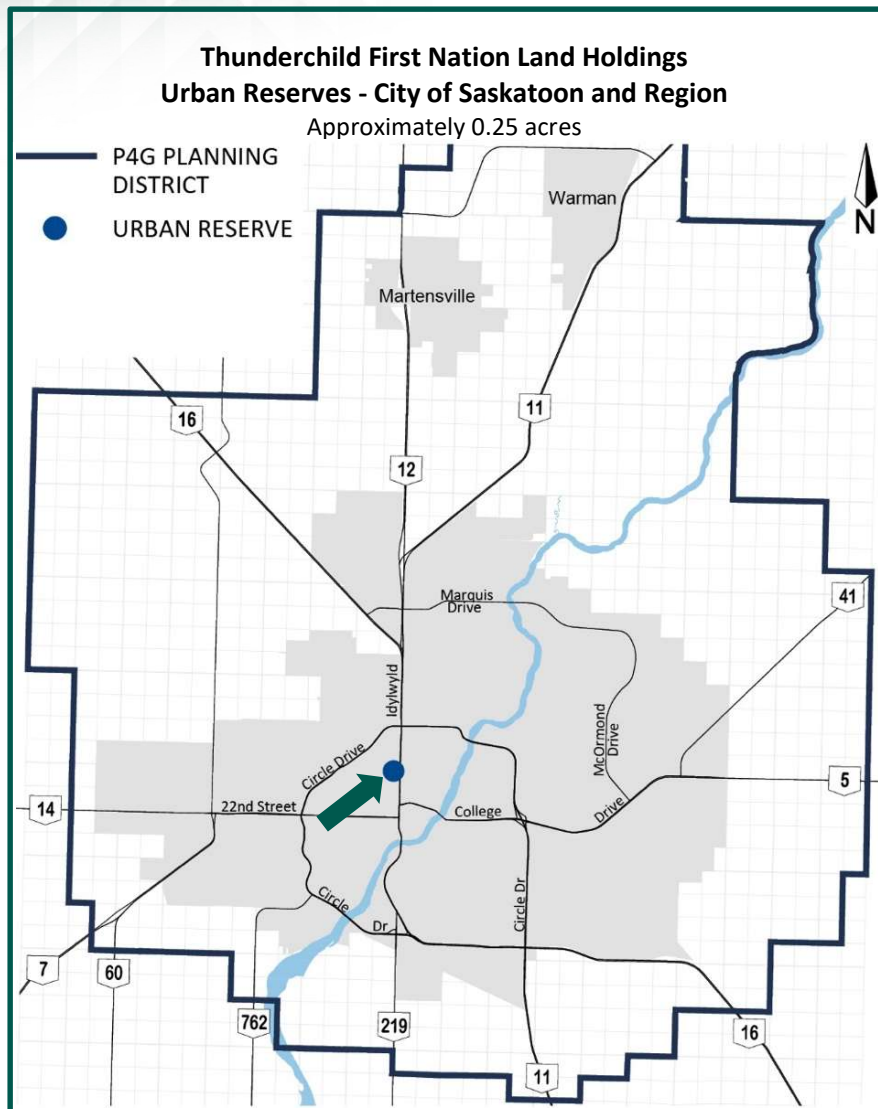
Chief: Delbert Wapass
Councillors: Enola Frank
Walter Jimmy
John Noon
Gerald Okanee
Leonard Sapp
Melvin Thunderchild
Billy Yellowhead

Election Term: October 18, 2022, to
October 19, 2026

CONTACT INFORMATION

Thunderchild First Nation

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FOR MORE INFORMATION



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Saskatoon Regional Economic Development Authority (SREDA)
306-664-0720 • info@sreda.com • www.sreda.com

