
Wabowden

Community Status

Wabowden, situated near the geographic centre of Manitoba, was first located at Setting Lake which is part of the historic Grass River fur trade route. With the arrival of the railway in the 1920s, the community relocated to its present site on Bowden Lake. This is 111 km Southwest of Thompson and 640 km north of Winnipeg along PTH #6.

Because of its existence for some 100 years, family structures are well developed and social functions are continual. The community finds strength in being populated by people of many diverse backgrounds, although the Metis culture is dominant. Many Wabowden families originated in Cross Lake, so there are strong historic ties to that community.

When the Manibridge Nickel Mine was operational in the early 1970s, the population was over 1,000, but has declined since the mine closed in 1976.

The Bucko Lake Mine was opened in 2003 by Crowflight Minerals and it is now in production employing approximately 200 people. The mine has brought new life to the community. The community population has grown considerably since 2001. Wabowden now has a total population of about 900, when including the contractors and rotational employees.

Quality of life is exceptional because of the excellent water supply, low air pollution, adequate housing, excellent educational facilities and ongoing recreational programming. Social events are highlighted by an annual July 1 sports day and the end of the winter "Carnival." Sport fishing, hunting and other outdoor activities are available in the pristine environment.

Wabowden is represented by a mayor and council under *The Northern Affairs Act*.

Community Contacts

By mail

Wabowden Community Administrative Officer
Box 130
Wabowden, Mb. R0B 1S0

By phone/email

Call 204-689-2362
Fax 204-689-2355
E-mail: wabowdencc@gmail.com

Office hours and staff

Office hours are: Mon – Fri 8:30am - 4:30pm

Besides the administrator, the community employs an administrative assistant, public works foreman, two public works employees, a volunteer fire chief, an ambulance co-ordinator and a recreation director.

Community Statistics

Population

1985	660
1991	546
1996	563
2001	497
2006	750

Information from Statistics Canada after 1985.

Households

There are 150 housing units in the community. Crowflight Minerals operates a housing camp that holds 120 employees.

By-laws

- Basic Planning Statement
- Civil Emergency Plan
- Control of Horses
- Debt Cancellation
- Documents & Records
- Dog Control
- Emergency Services Department
- Employee Benefits
- Fire Brigade
- Garbage Disposal
- Licensing Taxicabs
- Licensing Trades & Occupations
- Licensing Trailer Court

- Mobile Homes
- Naming of Streets
- Noise Control
- Notice of Intent to Enact a By-law
- Water & Sewer
- Zoning

Boundary

Manitoba Regulation 161/95, as amended, refers to Director of Surveys Plan 19313. See map.

Property Assessment and Taxes

Values of Assessment	
Business	\$136,400
Real Property	3,658,660
Grants-in-lieu	1,738,840
Exempt	2,976,870
Total	8,510,770

Rate of Taxation (mills)	
General Municipal	5.20
School levies	
Foundation	12.33
Frontier School Division (#48)	17.60
Business Tax	3.75%

Information is from the 2010 assessment roll and tax by-law of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs.

Emergency Services

Fire

Fire fighting capability is based on two pumper trucks and equipment from the community emergency centre. The community also has a rescue unit. Portable forestry equipment is also available for grass and brush fires.

Police

Police response is from the Wabowden detachment, RCMP, phone: (204) 689-2152.

Medical

Medical response is based on a new provincial nursing station staffed by a public health nurse, community health worker and receptionist. A fully equipped ambulance provides emergency services from Wabowden to the hospital in Thompson. The Northern Patient Transportation Program provides financial assistance involving medical travel.

Community-based Services

Hydro

Provided by Manitoba Hydro as land-line electric power. Residential rates are:

Basic charge	\$ 6.85 /month
First 900 kWh	6.25 cents/KWH
Balance	6.30 cents/KWH

Hydro Regional Office is at Thompson, phone (204) 677-2357.

Telephone

Manitoba Telecom Services provide individual-line service and digital switching with toll-free calling to Thompson in 1996. Call MTS toll-free at: (204) 225-5687.

Cell phone service came to the area in 2008.

Water

Water is pumped from Bowden Lake to the treatment plant. Water is filtered, chlorinated and fluoridated, then pumped into a reservoir. A distribution system is throughout the community and all but three of the homes are connected.

Waste Disposal

Solid-waste is picked up twice weekly and transported to a solid-waste disposal site two miles north of the community. This site was officially opened in the summer of 2008.

Sewage is collected by a low-pressure and gravity system to a lift station and then pumped to a sewage lagoon for treatment.

Schools

The Mel Johnson School in Wabowden is operated by Frontier School Division. Staffing includes the principal, 12 teachers and about 12 support staff.

Recreation Facilities

- Baseball diamonds
- Beaches
- Campers park area
- Golf driving range
- Recreation complex, including multi-purpose hall, skating/hockey ice facilities and curling ice
- Toboggan slide area
- Tot lots

Recreational Activities

The Setting Lake-Grass River watershed is ideal for many recreational activities, including camping, canoeing, sport fishing, sport hunting, swimming and water skiing.

The wayside park at Setting Lake is a favourite camping and tourist location, and provides 15 electrical camping sites and 19 sites without electricity. All sites have picnic tables and barbecues.

Government Services

Bayline Regional Round Table head-office is located in the Council Office, phone (204) 689-2063.

Communities Economic Development Fund, Head Office at Thompson, phone: (204) 778-4138.

Manitoba Conservation, Regional Operations, Northeast Region Office, District Office located at Thompson, phone: (204) 677-6648.

Manitoba Conservation, Regional Operations, Northeastern Region, Fire Control Officer located at Thompson, phone: (204) 677-6627.

Manitoba Conservation, Regional Operations, Northeast Region Public Health, phone: (204) 677-6703.

Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism, Regional Services Branch, Norman Region Office located at Thompson, phone: (204) 677-6780.

Manitoba Intergovernmental Affairs, Community Economic Development, Regional Office at Thompson, phone: (204) 677-6792.

Manitoba Intergovernmental Affairs, Community Planning Services, Regional Office located at Thompson, phone: (204) 677-6700.

Manitoba Justice Circuit Court sits at Thompson coordinated by the Thompson Regional Court Office, phone: (204) 677-6759.

Manitoba Labour, Employment Services Standards, Employment Standards Officer is located at Thompson, phone: (204) 677-6664.

Manitoba Labour, Office of the Fire Commissioner, Assistant Fire Commissioner is located at Thompson, phone: (204) 677-6592.

Commercial Services

Accommodation

Accommodation is available at the Silver Leaf Hotel.

Transportation

- Gardewine North provides freight service to this community by all-weather road from its terminals in Thompson.
- VIA Rail provides scheduled passenger service between Thompson and The Pas.
- Grey Goose Bus Lines provides passenger service and small-parcel service between Thompson and Winnipeg.

Businesses

- Carl Dram Fisheries – (204) 689-2140
- Crowflight Minerals Inc. – (204) 689-2972
- Dwyer's General Store – (204) 689-2277
- Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation (Packing Plant) – (204) 689-2198
- Grass River Logging – (204) 689-2652
- Wabowden Ice Cream Parlour – (204) 689-2247
- Jonasson Fisheries – (204) 689-2218
- Mountain Ash Grove Greenhouse - (204) 689-2218
- Mud Lake Logging – (204) 689-2680
- Mistik Hauling – (204) 689-2652
- Nelson River Logging – (204) 689-2319
- Pat Smith Trucking & Construction – (204) 689-2345
- Pierone Construction - (204) -689-2502
- Ponton Gas Station & Motel – (204) 689-9900
- Fourre Transportation – (204) 689-2607
- Silver Leaf Hotel & Motel – (204) 689-2127
- Skulmoski Fisheries - (204) 689-2334
- Trach Trucking – (204) 689-1618
- Wabman Trucking – (204) 689-2261
- Wabowden Development Corp. – (204) 689-2362

Economic Overview

Wabowden is located in the southern part of Manitoba's nickel belt. A number of ore bodies are known to exist near the community. Manibridge Nickel Mines operated from 1970 to 1976.

In 1972 a logging operation was started at Sipiwesk, about 16 kilometres to the west of Wabowden. It provides wood to the Tolko Manitoba Inc pulp and paper mill, and sawmill plant at The Pas. The timber harvest has become Wabowden's most important industry supplying the Tolko processing plant.

The Bucko Lake Mine has brought many jobs to the community. Crowflight Minerals Inc. has retained Dumas Mining Contractors to run the site. Some employees have moved to Wabowden, some are rotational employees, while others are mining contractors.

Wabowden

The opening of the Bucko Lake Mine has injected the community with new life. Pre selling of ore has enabled Crowflight to continue to operate even in the current down trends in world markets.

The Community Council, Crowflight Minerals Inc. and UCN have joined forces and now have mining training in the community which is being attended not only by locals but by others from outlying communities.

Wabowden is also situated in the "Wabowden Clay Belt," an agricultural zone with some potential for agricultural applications. An agriculture research station operated from 1956 to 1965 in the community to assess soil fertility and plant adaptability in mid-northern Manitoba.

Commercial fishing continues to be one of the major sources of employment. The Wabowden fish station, located in the community, serves the communities of Wabowden, Nelson House, Thicket Portage, Cross Lake, Snow Lake, Pikwitonei and Herb Lake Landing, all of whom have access to the Nelson and Grass River watershed areas. The area connection with the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation provides valuable facilities and creates seasonal employment.

Trappers in the Wabowden Registered Trap Line Zone produce additional income for the community economy.

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