

Berens River Reserve No. 13 is located approximately 270 air kilometres north of Winnipeg on the east shore of Lake Winnipeg at the mouth of the Berens River and 391 kilometres by road on Provincial Road #304. A few kilometres south is a more isolated reserve, Pigeon River No. 13A which, in the past, has been used as a collection point for logging operations.

History

The First Nation is signatory to Treaty 5 signed in 1875.

Language

The native language is Ojibway.

Reserves

Berens River I.R. No. 13

Area: 6,294 acres (2,547 hectares)

Pigeon River I.R. No. 13A

Area: 852 acres (345 hectares)

Total Number of Reserves: 2

Total Area: 7,146 acres

(2,892 hectares)

Population

According to the regional population statistics of Dec. 2003, the First Nation has an on-reserve population of 1,473 and an off-reserve population of 936. The total population of the First Nation is 2,409.

First Nation Government

The Chief of the Berens River First Nation is Alfred Everett.

Councillors are George Green, Gerald Green,

Hughie Semple, Gerald Cochrane and Gerald Kemp. The Chief and Council was elected in November 2003.

The First Nation officials normally serve a two year term with the next election scheduled for November 2005.

Berens River First Nation
Berens River, MB
R0B 0A0

Phone: (204) 382-2161

Fax: (204) 382-2297

Land Entitlement Status

The First Nation has no outstanding treaty land entitlement.

Education

The First Nation is served by Berens River School. It is operated by the Frontier School Division. Grades K4-S4(Grade 12) are offered on-reserve and First Nation members may also attend schools off-reserve.

The total student enrolment in 2003-2004 is 353.

Health Care

The First Nation has a nursing station on-reserve with four nurses. Ambulance service is

provided by Northern Patient Transportation Program.

Chief Jacob Berens Mino-
Ayaawin Center
Berens River Nursing
Station
First Nations and Inuit
Health Branch
Health Canada
Berens River, MB
R0B 0A0

Phone: (204) 382-2265

Fax: (204) 382-2005

Health Management
Berens River First Nation
Jackie Everette, Health
Director

Phone: (204) 382-2813

Fax: (204) 382-2260

Child and Family Services

SOUTHEAST CHILD AND
FAMILY SERVICES INC.
4th Floor - 360 Broadway
Winnipeg, MB
R3C 0T6

Phone: (204) 947-0011

Fax: (204) 947-0009

Berens River Field Office
Southeast Child and Family
Services Inc.
Berens River, MB
R0B 0A0

Phone (204) 382-2525

Fax: (203) 382-2130

The head office is located in Winnipeg and the Director is Burma Bushie.

The agency was mandated in April 1983 and serves nine First Nations.

Infrastructure

Water Supply:

The community obtains water from the Berens River. The water is treated and distributed via watermains to 239 houses; 23 houses have no service. The Frontier School, teacherages, Nursing Station and the adjoining Metis community all operate individual water treatment facilities and distribution systems.

Sewage Disposal:

The First Nation has a sewage treatment plant to which 239 houses, and all public facilities are connected. There are 23 houses that utilize pit privies.

Garbage Disposal:

The First Nation maintains one landfill site.

Recreation:

Recreational facilities include an outdoor skating rink, ball diamond, Pee-Wee Sports Club, Berens River Junior and Senior/Old Timers Hockey Club, playground and park.

Electrical Service:

Service is provided by land line.

Postal Service:

Air mail service is provided three times per week.

Police Protection:

The two 3B constables stationed in Selkirk serve the area as well. There is one First Nation constable on-reserve.

RCMP:

Selkirk: (204) 482-3322

Fire Protection:

The First Nation has a fire truck and a converted water truck for fire protection.

Transportation

Access is by air. There is a 2,900 foot gravel airstrip maintained in the community. Perimeter Airlines and Northlands Aviation provide scheduled service.

Communications

Radio service is limited to Winnipeg stations. TV service is limited to stations received via satellite dish.

The telephone system has been converted from a single party exchange to direct dial.

Resource, Economic and Employment Development

Main Economic Base:

Fishing, trapping and forestry

Commercial and Business Services

On-reserve

- Berens River Band Hall
- Berens River Log Inn
- Berens River Radio Station
- Meemeeweeseepi Memorial Arena
- Berens River General Store
- Withawick Garage
- C and D Convenience Store
- Oshetoon Building Supplies
- Oshetoon Auto Parts
- Meemeeweeseepi Development Corporation
- Violet's Video
- Nipi Marine Services
- Metik Enterprises

Off-reserve

- Barra Inn
- Alix Enterprises Ltd.
- Northern Store
- Berens River Community Centre
- Berens River Airport
- Manitoba Hydro