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# Wabowden

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## Community Overview

Wabowden, situated near the geographic centre of the province, 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.

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 métis culture is dominant. Many families originated from Cross Lake, so there are strong historic ties to that community.

Quality of life is exceptional, because of the excellent water supply, low air pollution, adequate housing, excellent educational facilities and ongoing recreational programming.

### Access

Wabowden is 111 kilometres (km) southwest of Thompson and 640 km north of Winnipeg along Provincial Trunk Highway 6.

### Governance

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

## Community Contacts

Wabowden Community Council  
Box 130  
Wabowden, MB R0B 1S0

Phone: 204-689-2362  
Fax: 204-689-2355  
Email: wabowdenc@gmail.com

Bayline Regional Round Table Head Office  
Phone: 204-689-2063 in the Administration Building.

## Office Hours and Staff

Monday to Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

The community employs a community administrative officer, administrative assistant, public works supervisor, two public works employees, volunteer fire chief, ambulance co-ordinator and recreation director.

## Economic Overview

Wabowden is located in the southern part of the province's nickel belt. A number of ore bodies are known to exist near the community. Manibridge Nickel Mine operated from 1970 to 1976. When this mine was operational, the population was over 1,000.

In 1972, a logging operation was started at Sipiwesk, 16 km west of Wabowden, providing wood to the pulp mill in The Pas. The timber harvest was an important industry.

The opening of the Bucko Lake Mine in 2003 by Crowflight Minerals injected the community with new life and is no longer in operation. Pre selling of ore has enabled Crowflight to continue to operate even in the current down trends in world markets. 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. Crowflight Minerals operates a housing camp that holds 120 employees.

The population has grown considerably since 2001. Wabowden now has a total population of about 900 when including the contractors and rotational employees.

The community council, Crowflight Minerals Inc. and University College of the North (UCN) joined forces and have mining training in the community which is being attended not only by locals, but by others from outlying communities.

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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 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 serves the communities of Wabowden, Nelson House, Thicket Portage, Cross Lake, Snow Lake, Pikwitonei and Herb Lake Landing, all of which 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 Trapline Zone produce additional income for the economy.

### Community Statistics

Population	
1985	660
1991	546
1996	563
2001	558
2006	516
2011	550

*\*Information is from Statistics Canada.*

#### Households

There are 150 housing units.

#### Boundary

Manitoba Regulation 67/2009 refers to Director of Surveys at Winnipeg as No. 19313. See map.

#### Property Assessment and Taxes

Information is from the 2015 assessment roll and Manitoba Regulation 117/2015 tax rates and levy of Manitoba Indigenous and Municipal Relations.

Value of Assessment	
Business	\$152,400
Real Property	\$3,920,030
Grants-in-lieu	\$1,912,530
Exempt	\$3,164,560

Total	\$9,149,520
<b>Rate of Taxation</b>	
General Municipal mills	5.7
Business Tax	3.75%
<b>School Levies</b>	
Foundation mills	11.61
Frontier School Division #48 mills	15.399

### Emergency Services

#### Fire

Fire fighting capability is based on two pumper trucks and equipment from the emergency centre. There is also a rescue unit. Portable forestry equipment is also available for grass and brush fires. Phone: 204-689-2911.

#### Police

Police response is from the Wabowden RCMP detachment Phone: 204-689-2152.

#### Medical

Medical response is from the provincial nursing station staffed by a public health nurse, community health worker and receptionist. A fully equipped ambulance provides emergency services to the Thompson General Hospital Phone: 204-689-2911. The Northern Patient Transportation Program provides financial assistance for medical travel.

### Communication Services

#### Phone

Manitoba Telecom Services provides individual line service and digital switching with toll free calling to Thompson. Office toll free: 204-225-5687.

#### Cellular Service/High-Speed Internet

Available.

#### Wi-Fi

Unavailable.

### Community Based Services

#### Hydro

Manitoba Hydro provides landline electric power. Office Phone: 204-677-2357 in Thompson.

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### **Water and Wastewater**

Water is pumped from Bowden Lake to the treatment plant. Water is filtered, chlorinated and distributed by waterlines throughout the community. All but one is connected.

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

### **Waste Disposal**

Solid waste is picked up twice weekly and transported to a solid waste disposal site 3 km north of the community. This site was officially opened in the summer of 2008.

### **Schools**

The Mel Johnson School is operated by Frontier School Division which serves 134 students from Nursery to Grade 12. Phone: 204-689-2620.

### **Recreation Facilities**

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

### **Recreation Activities**

- 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
- Setting Lake-Grass River watershed is ideal for camping, canoeing, sport fishing, sport hunting, swimming and water skiing
- Wayside Park at Setting Lake is a favourite camping and tourist location and provides 15 electrical camping sites and 19 sites without electricity and all sites have picnic tables and barbecues

### **Government Services**

Manitoba Sustainable Development  
Regional Operations, Northeast Region, District

Office and Conservation Officer Phone: 204-689-2688 in Wabowden. Fire Control Officer Phone: 204-679-2253 in Thompson.

Environment Officer Phone: 204-677-6703 and Drinking Water Officer Phone: 204-677-6704 in Thompson. After hours emergency number toll free: 1-855-944-4888 (officers on call).

Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living  
Public Health Inspector Phone: 204-677-6472 in Thompson.

### Manitoba Justice

Circuit court sits at Thompson coordinated by the Thompson Regional Court Office Phone: 204-677-6761.

Manitoba Growth, Enterprise and Trade  
Employment Standards Branch Phone: 204-677-6664 in Thompson or toll free: 1-800-821-4307.

Office of the Fire Commissioner, Deputy Fire Commissioner Phone: 204-726-6855 in Brandon. The 24 hour emergency number toll free: 1-888-389-3473.

Communities Economic Development Fund (CEDF), Head Office Phone: 204-778-4138 in Thompson or toll free: 1-800-561-4315.

Manitoba Indigenous and Municipal Relations  
Northern Regional Office Phone: 204-677-6786 in Thompson. The 24 hour emergency number toll free: 1-866-753-3111.

Recreation and Regional Services Branch  
Phone: 204-627-8213 in The Pas.

Community and Regional Planning Branch,  
Regional Office Phone: 204-945-4988 in Winnipeg.

### **Commercial Services**

#### **Accommodation**

- Accommodation is available in the community with the next nearest accommodation in Ponton. Phone: 204-689-9900.

**Transportation**

- Gardewine North provides freight service by all weather roads from its Winnipeg terminal. Office toll free: 1-800-665-7340.
- OmniTRAX, operating on the Hudson Bay Railway, provides three times weekly passenger, parcel and carload freight service from The Pas and Thompson. Office toll free: 1-877-276-3777.
- Greyhound provides bus passenger service from Wabowden to Thompson and Winnipeg. Office toll free: 1-800-661-8747.

**Business Directory**

<b>Business</b>	<b>Phone</b>
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 and Construction	204-689-2345
Pierone Construction	204-689-2502
Fourre Transportation	204-689-2607
Silver Leaf Hotel and Motel	204-689-2127
Skulmoski Fisheries	204-689-2334
Trach Trucking	204-689-1618
Wabman Trucking	204-689-2261
Wabowden Development Corporation	204-689-2362

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