

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Chapleau Cree First Nation is situated 5 kilometres Southwest of the town of Chapleau. The actual site is 51° North longitude and 83° West latitude. The dimension of the reserve is approximately 2560 acres or 4 square miles. There are Treaty entitlements and lands remaining which are still being negotiated.

The original settlement of *Chapleau Cree First Nation* was connected with the Chapleau and Nebskwashi Rivers, approximately 1 mile east of the town of Chapleau. The township of Chapleau had built a sewage reservoir 1000 feet from the settlement boundaries of the #75 Reserve. As a result, the land was of poor quality and band members chose not to settle there, instead they settled in the town of Chapleau.

In 1989, the *Chapleau Cree First Nation* negotiated with both the Federal and Provincial governments to set aside lands for the use of the First Nation and to establish a permanent community. The *Chapleau Cree First Nation* is currently situated on the newly established Chapleau Cree First Nation Reserve. Since band members began returning to their community, 22 homes and a senior's residence have been built.

The *Chapleau Cree First Nation* is based at the bottom of the Arctic Watershed, which also embodies the largest game preserve in northern Ontario, the *Chapleau Game Preserve*.

The town of Chapleau has a population base of 3000 and additionally, the town provides services to approximately 1000 residents in surrounding communities. There are two other First Nation communities located within a seven-mile radius, *Brunswick House* and the *Chapleau Ojibwe*.

FORM OF GOVERNMENT

The *Chapleau Cree First Nation* is administered by an elected council, which consists of a Chief and five Councillors. The Chief and council serve a three-year term. Any member of the First Nation who lives on or off reserve and who has reached the age of majority is eligible to vote in band elections.

The Chief and Council are charged with the responsibility of ensuring that Treaty obligations that are set out in Treaty #9, between the Chapleau Cree, Canada and the province of Ontario are adhered to. The *Chapleau Cree First Nation* is also a member of the *Mushkegowuk Tribal Council, Nishnawbe-Aski Nation, Chiefs of Ontario and the Assembly of First Nations*.

OVERVIEW OF THE LOCAL ECONOMY

The predominant industry in Chapleau is forestry, followed by tourism. The town of Chapleau offers mixed government services. Financial services are also provided in the town of Chapleau, which include the Royal Bank of Canada, the Bank of Montreal and the Credit Union. The Chapleau Cree First Nation provides public service to its own membership.

POPULATION

The total population of the *Chapleau Cree First Nation* is 337, 73 of which live on reserve, the remainder live off reserve in nearby Chapleau or in other parts of Canada. Of those who live on reserve, 40 are male and 33 are female.

AGE GROUP DISTRIBUTION:

	0-4yrs	5-15yrs	16-25yrs	26-45yrs	46-60yrs	61-80yrs	81- over
MALE	4	8	5	10	5	6	0
FEMALE	1	2	5	12	9	3	3

Total on reserve population: 73

LABOUR FORCE

The total labour force [those between the ages of 15 to 65] for the *Chapleau Cree First Nation* is comprised of approximately 50 people. The employment rate is 95%. The First Nation employs the majority of the band membership. Nurses, accountants, carpenters, mechanics, secretaries and executives are a few of the skilled professions employed by the First Nation. This does not include those members who live off reserve who may be employed in the forestry industry or other locally generated employment.

There are 2 families that are in need of social assistance, to apply for social assistance, band members must travel to the town of Chapleau.

MAJOR EMPLOYERS

The *Chapleau Cree First Nation* is the major employer for members of the First Nation. The First Nation employs 17 people under the following units:

Chapleau Cree First Nation Admin Office
 Fox Lake Reserve
 P.O Box 400, Chapleau, ON P0M 1K0
 (705) 864-0784

Chapleau Cree Gas Bar
 Fox Lake Reserve
 General Delivery Chapleau, ON P0M 1K0
 (705) 864-0745
Chapleau Cree Health Centre
 Fox Lake Reserve

P.O Box 400
Chapleau, ON
P0M 1K0
(705) 864-0200

Chapleau Cree Public Works

Fox Lake Reserve
P.O Box 400
Chapleau, ON
P0M 1K0
(705) 864-1762

Other small business enterprises:

Cree-Tech Incorporated

Fox Lake Reserve
General Delivery
Chapleau, ON
P0M 1K0
(705) 864-1777
3 employees

Jim Fletcher - Welding Contractor

Highway 129, House #200
Chapleau, ON
P0M 1K0
(705) 864-2101
1 employee

Ian Fortin - Brick Laying Contractor

Fox Lake Reserve
P.O Box 1386
Chapleau, ON
P0M 1K0
(705) 864-2670
1 employee

Wabimeguil Art Studio

White Feather
Fox Lake Reserve
P.O Box 1253
Chapleau, ON
P0M 1K0
(705) 864-2576
2 employees

Dreamweavers Emporium

16 Birch Street
Chapleau, ON
P0M 1K0
(705) 864-0848
2 employees

Other band members are employed by the township of Chapleau in various capacities, from engineers who work for the Canadian Pacific Railway, the city operators and general labourers who work for the city of Chapleau and 1 schoolteacher who works for the Board of Education of the Algoma District.

UTILITIES

Each household in the community has a water and sewage system. The water treatment plant also has a backup in case of power failure in the community. The water treatment plant has been designed to provide chlorinated water for at least 500 other residents.

Electrical power is provided by *Ontario Hydro* and is maintained by the town of Chapleau. Ontario Hydro charges a flat rate each month.

The First Nation provides sanitation disposal weekly. Road maintenance is also provided and it is the responsibility of each household to pay the fees.

Some residents of the Fox Lake Reserve heat their homes with wood, others use oil furnaces, electric heat or a combination of both.

Bell Canada services the Fox Lake Reserve and each home has a telephone hook-up. Bell Canada is also the Internet service provider.

The town of Chapleau where the mail is received and distributed to the appropriate mailbox provides postal service. Mail arrives and leaves daily, except weekends.

Television cable service is not available to the Fox Lake Reserve. The Superior Cable Company only delivers to the town of Chapleau. There are 2 channels available without the use of cable, CTV and CBC. The majority (95%) of Fox Lake Reserve residents have a satellite system.

The town of Chapleau and surrounding communities receives 2 *radio stations*, *CBC North* out of Sudbury and a local station called *JAM FM*.

TRANSPORTATION

The *Chapleau Cree First Nation* is accessible by road. The two main routes to the Chapleau area are Highway 101 and Highway 129. Automobile travel to Timmins is 2 hours, 4 hours to Sudbury and 3 1/2 hours to Sault Ste. Marie.

Transportation by rail is available on the Canadian Pacific Railway Budd car that travels to and from Sudbury and White River on alternate days. At present, a round trip fare is \$90.00

The *Chapleau Cree Administration office* maintains the roads in the community and in the winter months provides a plowing service.

The nearest airport to the *Chapleau Cree First Nation* is the *Chapleau Airport*. The *Chapleau Airport*, which has 2 runways, provides full air service, with one commercial flight scheduled to and from Sudbury during weekdays. One round trip ticket is \$356.00.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

The *Chapleau Cree Health Centre* employs 1 full-time community health nurse and 1 registered practical nurse, a part-time homemaker and volunteers. Services provided include: Meals on Wheels, home visits, dressing changes, monitoring of medication,

monitoring of progress with post operative clients, Lifeline, bi-weekly shopping for seniors and out of town shopping for seniors twice a year.

The *Chapleau General Hospital* is located 6 kilometres from the Fox Lake Reserve and provides health services for more serious medical emergencies.

The Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service employs 3 full-time police officers. The 3 officers provide policing services for the 3 First Nations within the area.

Fire protection is provided on the First Nation by a volunteer fire department consisting of 10 volunteers. For more serious incidents the First Nation has a service agreement with the Municipality of Chapleau.

Recreational facilities located on the First Nation include a ball diamond (shared with the community of Chapleau), a beach and a small park area.