

Northern Saskatchewan Health Indicators

Community Characteristics:
Geographical and Political Profile

2023

Population Health Unit

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Refer to A Guide to the Reports: Understanding the Presentation of Data for an explanation of the variety of ways data is presented.

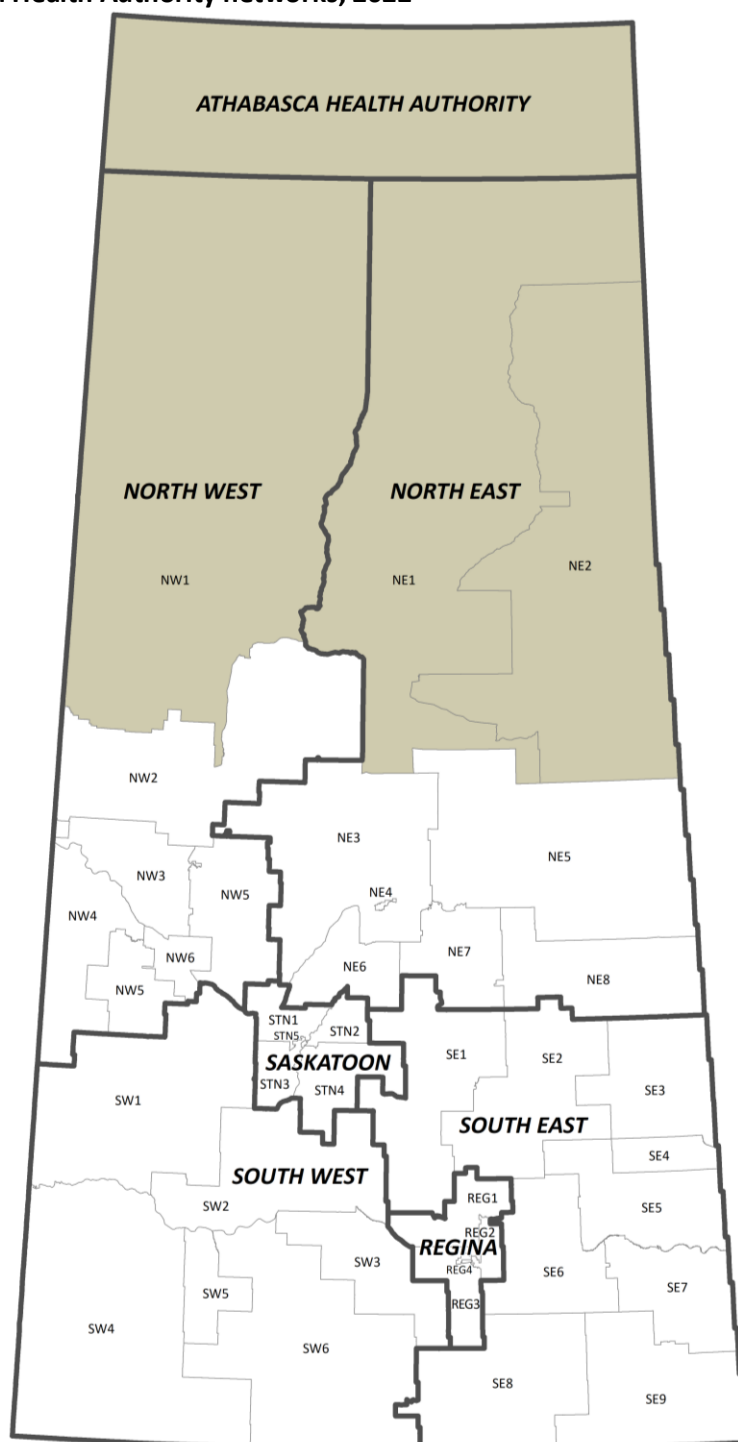
Suggested reference: Quinn B, Irvine J. Northern Saskatchewan Health Indicators, Community Characteristics: geographical and Political Profile. Athabasca Health Authority and Saskatchewan Health Authority, Population Health Unit, La Ronge, 2023.

All maps in this report were created by Tracy Creighton, GIS Analyst with the Saskatchewan Health Authority. Copies of this document and related reports can be downloaded from the [Saskatchewan Health Authority Website](#).

Geographical Area

Northern Saskatchewan is made up of North East Networks 1-2 and North West Network 1 within the Saskatchewan Health Authority, as well as the Athabasca Health Authority (AHA). Combined, these networks and AHA make up approximately the half of the provincial surface area.

Figure 1: Saskatchewan Health Authority networks, 2022



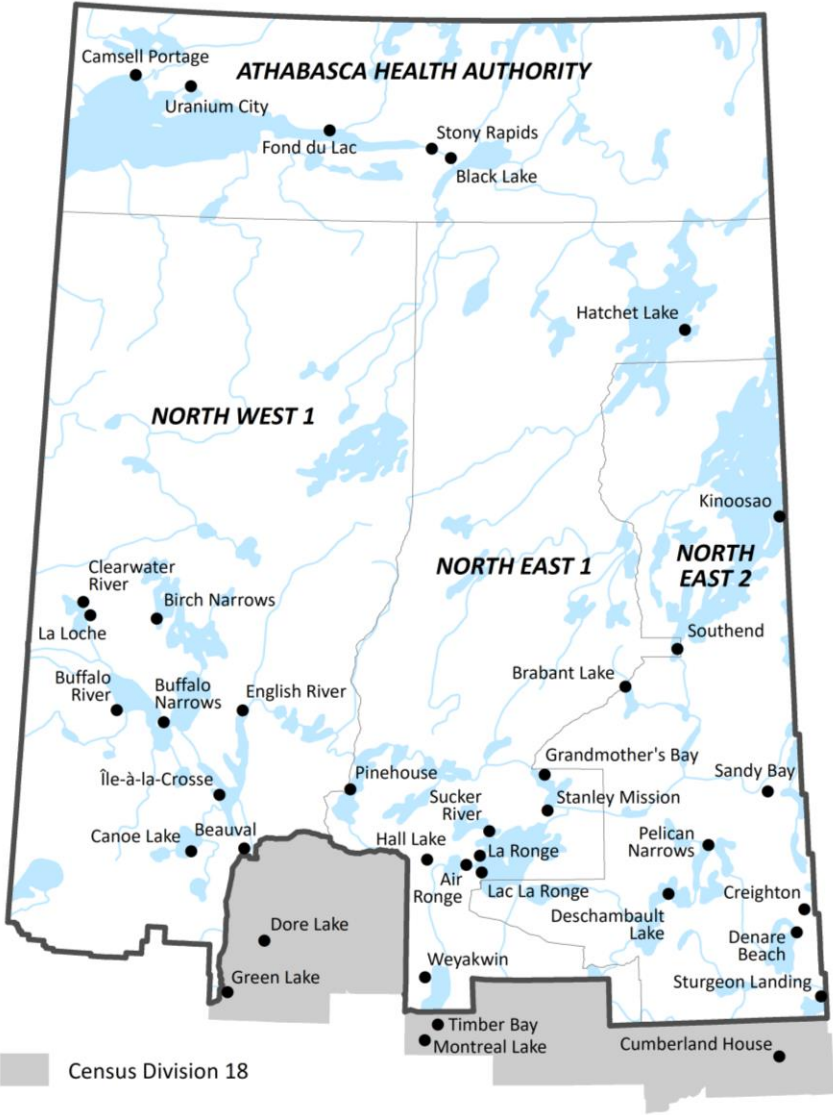
In December of 2017, the 12 former regional health authorities were officially amalgamated into one provincial Health Authority, the Saskatchewan Health Authority. Health Networks were created in an effort to connect teams of health care professionals and community partners to better meet the needs of the people they serve. The networks within northern Saskatchewan are very similar in size to the fRHA's. North West Network 1 is very similar to former Keewatin Yatthe, with the exception of Dore Lake and Green lake communities being excluded. North East Network 1 and 2 combined are very similar to the former Mamawetan Churchill River, with the exception of Montreal Lake Cree Nation and Timber Bay being excluded.

Figure 2: Selected communities in northern Saskatchewan Health Networks and AHA in comparison to former Regional Health Authorities, 2023



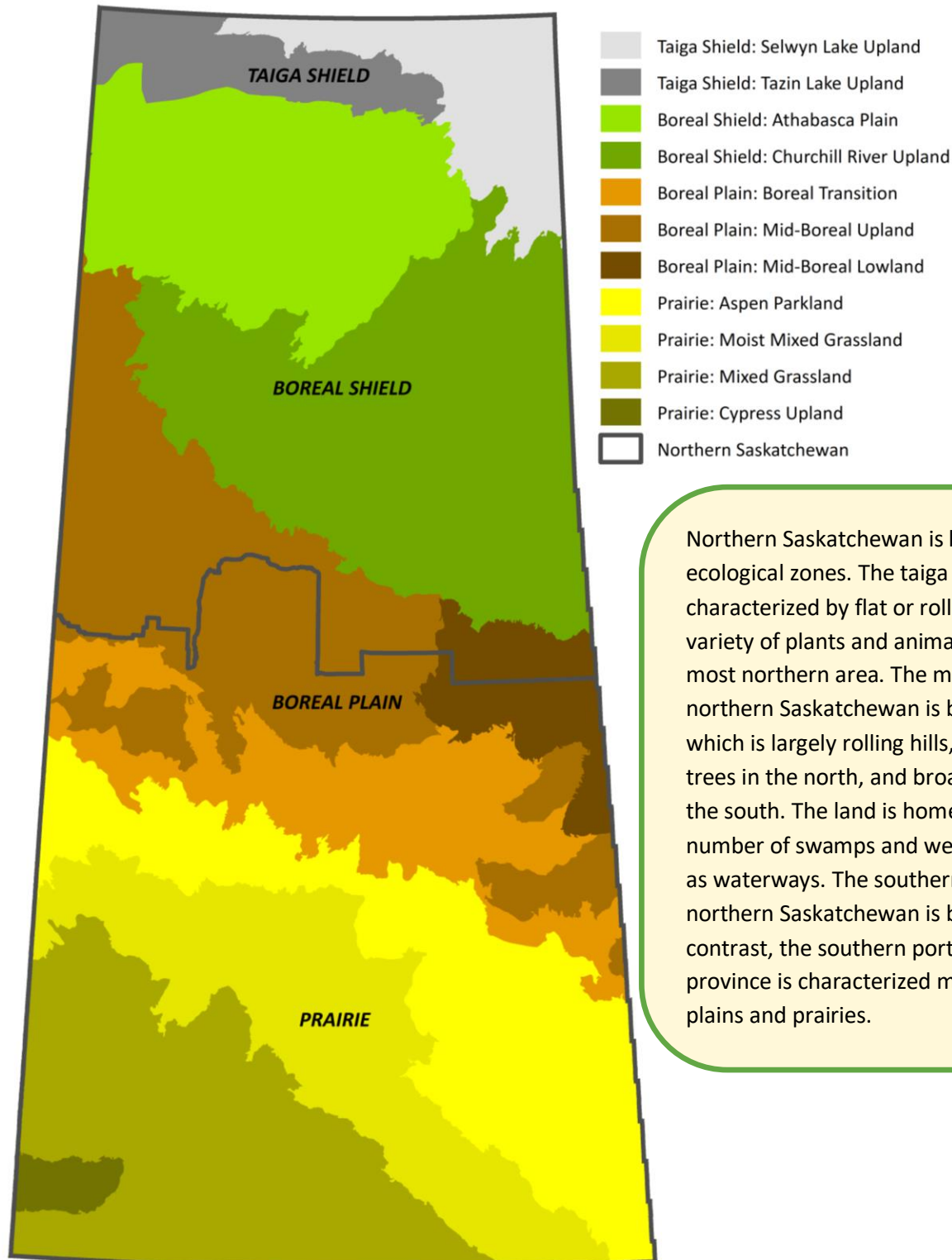
Northern Saskatchewan, as defined by the northern Saskatchewan health networks, is roughly equivalent to Census Division 18, excluding Dore Lake, Green Lake, Montreal Lake, Timber Bay, Cumberland House, and Cumberland House Cree Nation. There are over 70 communities spread across northern Saskatchewan. These other Census Division 18 communities still have many affiliations with the northern network communities, including Northern Lights School Division, Northern Municipalities, and the Environmental Quality Committees.

Figure 3: Selected communities in northern Saskatchewan, including health networks and Census Division 18 boundaries, 2023



Ecological Regions

Figure 4: Saskatchewan Ecological Regions and Zones, 2023



Northern Saskatchewan is home to three ecological zones. The taiga shield, characterized by flat or rolling hills and a variety of plants and animals, covers the most northern area. The middle section of northern Saskatchewan is boreal shield, which is largely rolling hills, coniferous trees in the north, and broadleaf trees in the south. The land is home to a large number of swamps and wetlands, as well as waterways. The southern part of northern Saskatchewan is boreal plains. In contrast, the southern portion of the province is characterized mainly by boreal plains and prairies.

Health Service Jurisdictions

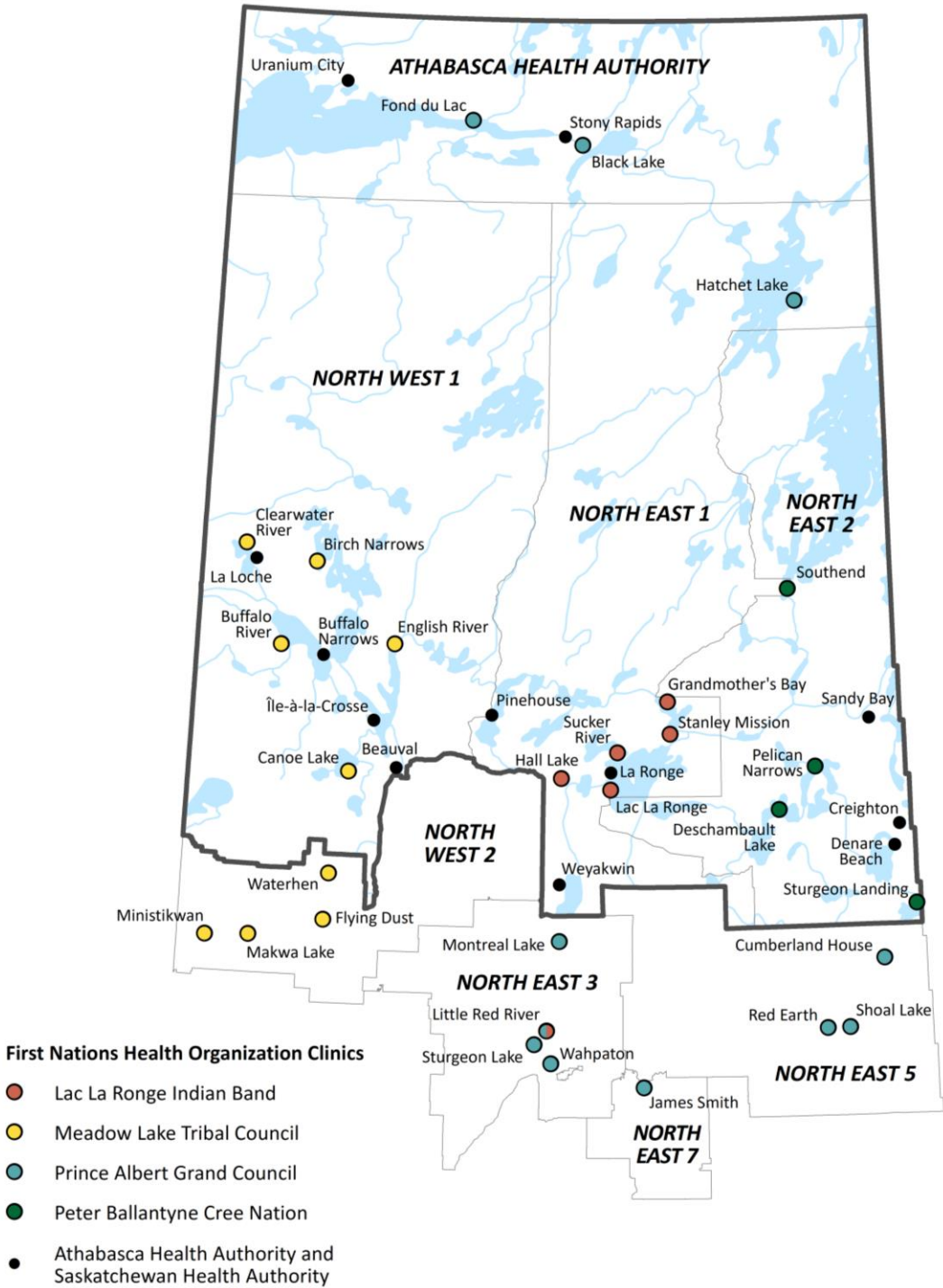
Multiple jurisdictions provide health services in the north including:

- Saskatchewan Health Authority, with the authority provided through the Ministry of Health
- Athabasca Health Authority, a unique partnership of federal, provincial, and First Nations health authorities
- First Nations, with transfer of authority for the administration of health services from the federal government to individual northern First Nations. Some services are provided through the grouping of various First Nations:
 - Meadow Lake Tribal Council including Clearwater River, Birch Narrows, Buffalo River, English River, La Plonge and Canoe Lake
 - Prince Albert Grand Council including Fond-du-Lac, Black Lake, and Hatchet Lake
 - Lac La Ronge Indian Band including Grandmother's Bay, Hall Lake, Sucker River, Kitsakie and Lac La Ronge
 - Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation including Kinoosao, Southend, Pelican Narrows, Deschambault Lake and Sturgeon Landing

For some specialized services, the Saskatchewan Health Authority, Athabasca Health Authority and First Nations have co-management partnerships through:

- Population Health Unit – North East Networks 1-2 and North West Network 1 within the Saskatchewan Health Authority, in partnership with the Athabasca Health Authority.
- Northern Inter-Tribal Health Authority – Comprised of the Prince Albert Grand Council, Meadow Lake Tribal Council, Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation, and Lac La Ronge Indian Band. NITHA also works in partnership with the Athabasca Health Authority and also covers several communities outside of the northern health networks.

Figure 5: Northern Saskatchewan Health networks, Athabasca Health Authority and First Nation Health Organizations and associated clinics, 2023



Governmental and Administrative Jurisdictions

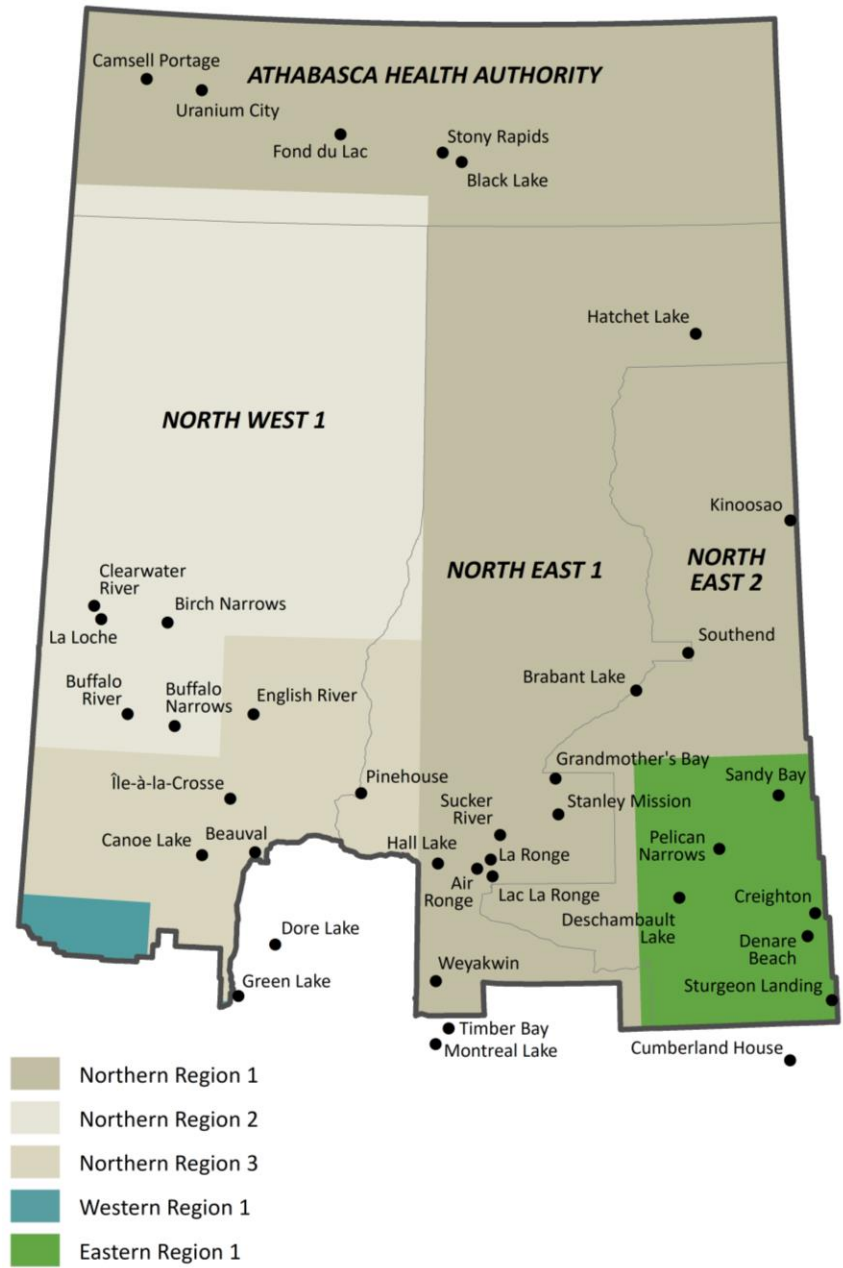
First Nations Governments: Five of the 12 First Nations associated with the Prince Albert Grand Council and five of the nine First Nations associated with the Meadow Lake Tribal Council are within the northern health networks of Saskatchewan. The numbered treaties covering the First Nations within the northern Saskatchewan include Treaty 6, Treaty 8, and Treaty 10.

Figure 6: Treaty boundaries and selected First Nations communities within Northern Saskatchewan, 2023



Métis Regions: Northern Regions I, II and III; Eastern Region I. These regions cover the AHA, and the northern Saskatchewan health networks, plus the other Census Division 18 communities including Timber Bay, Montreal Lake, Dore Lake, Green Lake and Cumberland House.

Figure 7: Métis Regions within Northern Saskatchewan, 2023



Provincial: Two provincial constituencies cover the northern area: Cumberland and Athabasca.
Federal: The region is covered by the electoral district of Desnethé-Missinippi-Churchill River.

Figure 8: Northern Saskatchewan provincial and federal electoral boundaries, 2023



Municipal: Thirty-five northern municipalities work together through the Saskatchewan Association of Northern Municipalities, also known as New North. In addition to the communities in AHA, and the northern Saskatchewan health networks, this also includes the other Census Division 18 municipalities including Timber Bay, Dore Lake, Green Lake and Cumberland House.

Education authorities:

- School Divisions: Northern Lights, Creighton and Île-à-la-Crosse
- Northlands College: Campuses in La Ronge, Air Ronge, Buffalo Narrows, and Creighton provide programming to students across northern Saskatchewan, including communities outside of the campus communities.
- First Nations Education: Prince Albert Grand Council, Lac La Ronge Indian Band and Meadow Lake Tribal Council and Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation

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