



**FRONTIER**  
SCHOOL DIVISION  
Excellence and Experience in Education

# The Northerner

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**ANNUAL REPORT  
2020/2021**



# Message from the Board Chairperson

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The school year of 2020-21 began under the cloud of the continuing pandemic. Many of us had hoped it would come and go like a common cold, but that did not happen and as I write this greeting, we still need to be vigilant so as not to catch a variant.

Our preparation for the 2020-21 school year was filled with numerous health guidelines and protocols to keep students and staff safe while continuing to teach and learn. During the year the majority of our schools were open for the greater part of the school year. However, the year was like no other, with travel for staff significantly curtailed and for students non-existent on so many fronts. Every employee and student learned how to monitor themselves for symptoms and stay home when they appeared, so others remained safe.

But through the perseverance of employees, students and our communities we carried on. As vaccines were introduced and people became vaccinated a breath of fresh air filled with safety spread through the Division and we saw a safer, brighter future on the horizon.

Enclosed in this Annual Report you will discover a snapshot of our school year and how we made it all work given the restrictions brought on by a pandemic.

I would be remiss if I did not commend the over 1,500 employees and community volunteers throughout our Division for working together during this trying time, making the best of a difficult situation. Our strength comes from working together as a family – our Frontier Family.

Thank you. Ekosani. Megwetch.

*Linda Ballantyne*

# Indigenous Way of Life

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The most important priority for the Indigenous Way of Life department this past year was on well-being, healing, advancing reconciliation and the relationships between Frontier School Division staff, students and the communities we serve.



Staff and students participating in activities for National Day of Action for Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls.



Staff and Students at Stevenson Island School on Orange Shirt Day.



Staff at Leaf Rapids Education Centre on Orange Shirt Day.



Frontier Collegiate celebrates with an Honour Dance



This year more than any before, we have seen students and staff members creating the space and initiating conversations related to Indigenous Way of Life and how to ensure we are working together to make change. It is an important time in history for Indigenous people!



South Indian Lake students participating in the Physical Education Distancing Fish Derby.



Tipi Teachings at Frontier Collegiate.

The first Cultural Exploration Student Initiated Project was offered to students at Frontier Collegiate as a half-credit towards graduation. The course focused on learning about culture, history, pride and truth and reconciliation. Indigenous leaders and role models from across the province were the foundation of this engaging program.

Knowledge Keepers and Cultural Advisors offered various virtual teachings about the drum, the Thunderbird, land acknowledgements, traditional medicines, tipis, healing, reciprocity, Indigenous worldview and the seven teachings.



Healing garden at Birdtail Sioux Dakota Nation.

Students at Grand Rapids School participating in traditional land-based learning activities including snaring rabbits and collecting cedar and offering tobacco.



In honour of the late Daisy Monias, a water ceremony was held in Norway House. The event centered on water protection, water laws, the importance of the language, and the rich culture and history through the relationship and connection to the land.

At the Duke of Marlborough School the Circle of Relatives was created, and demonstrated the importance of inviting local knowledge and gift givers into the classroom to work alongside teachers. The program supports student learning and celebration related to traditional, land, cultural and language knowledge.

Advancing Indigenous Perspectives and Knowledge in the Classrooms was a top priority and a common request across the Division.

Facilitated sessions for teachers included: Tipi teachings and how to develop curriculum-aligned lessons in English Language Arts and Math to support learning, traditional Indigenous winter activities, the Circle of Courage, Science and focused sessions on Social Studies to expand worldview.



# Finding Our Way

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The 2020-21 School Year brought many challenges but it also showcased our strength and resilience as we worked our way through the year together.

It is said pictures are worth a thousand words, and so, our year is captured through the many activities experienced in our schools and communities.

**We provided support to our communities to ensure healthy food was available....**



Food shipped to Brochet School via Perimeter Air.



Staff at Leaf Rapids Education Centre prepare food hampers that were delivered to community members during suspension of classes in the spring.



Gillam School applied for 15 flats of food through Second Harvest. Flats went to the community, Fox Lake Cree Nation pantry, and the Community Christmas Cheer Hamper.



Frontier Collegiate and student preparation.

When we returned to in-school learning, it looked something like this.....



Student registration at Frontier Collegiate.



Students missed their music classes....  
Left: Falcon Beach School student learning the banjo. Right: West Lynn Heights School students in their fiddling program.



Art class at Joseph H. Kerr School.



Matheson Island School student science project.



Art project at Duke of Marlborough School with students following the new protocols we live with.



Joseph H. Kerr School students excited to return to the water in their new kayaks.



Indigenous Way of Life Cultural Advisor Rob Apetagon at the virtual opening of the Frontier Games.



West Lynn Heights School science and gardening project "before" and "after" with a very proud student!



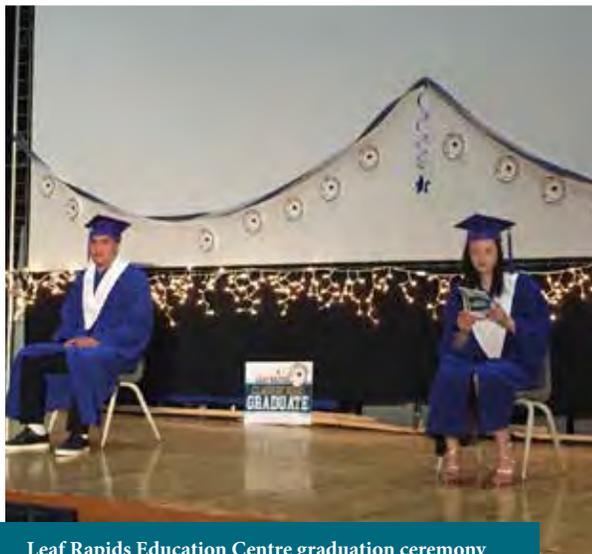
Student from Stevenson Island School receiving his banner and medal for snowshoeing.

And, we celebrated our achievements of our graduates like this....

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June 2021 Graduation ceremonies at Frontier Collegiate were postponed to the fall of 2021.



Leaf Rapids Education Centre graduation ceremony in June 2021 with students physically distanced.



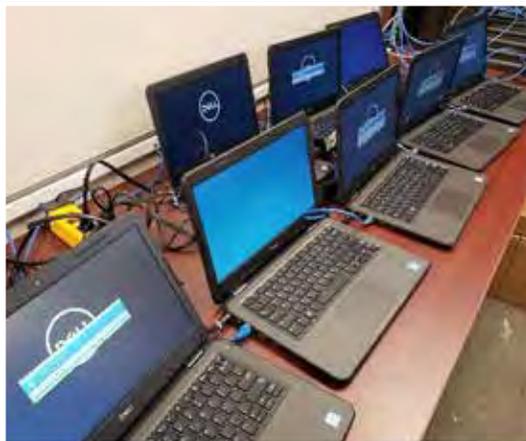
June 2021 Graduation ceremonies at Frontier Collegiate were postponed to the fall of 2021.

# Technology

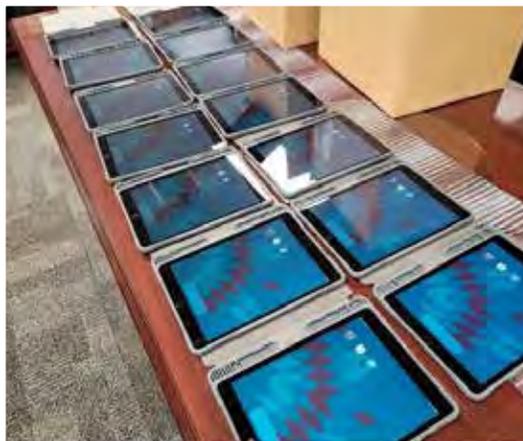
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Covid-19 brought to the forefront the very challenges Frontier has had to contend with for normal operations: How can education provide effective support remotely to students and teachers?

Frontier's technology team has the added hurdle of inadequate internet at virtually every site. To combat this disadvantage, Frontier has launched a 1 to 1 mobile device strategy that is not dependent upon the internet.



During 2020 Frontier ordered over 2,100 laptops for students to ensure we can support a 1 to 1 ratio for kids from grades 5-12. In addition to student laptops, an additional 400 laptops were also acquired to equip each of our teachers in all grades with the same technology.



Frontier's EdTech Working Group also determined that Google's Workspace for Education will be the Division's platform of choice for grades 7-12, as a result Frontier subscribed to the Enterprise version.

Additionally, last fall 2,700 iPads were ordered to support learning for Grades Kindergarten-4. This was done in tandem with subscribing to SeeSaw's online learning platform which is ideally suited, but not restricted to, the iPad system.



Ministic School student with learning device.



These mini tablets are completely stand-alone (internet & Wi-Fi not required) devices to support early years learning in literacy and numeracy.



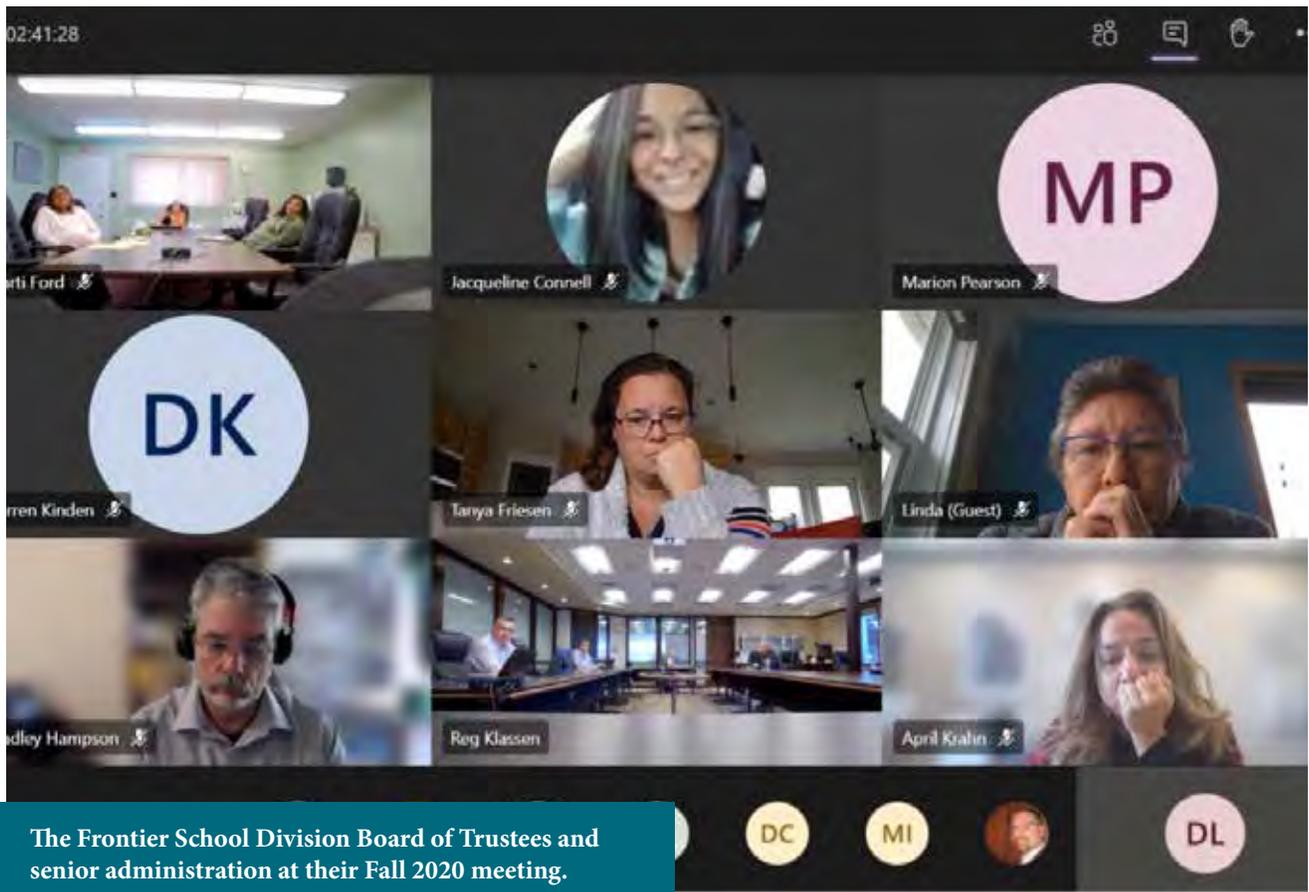
Cold Lake School student.

Frontier accelerated delivering professional learning to support all these new technologies via TEAMS, the Microsoft video conferencing system installed on all FSD employee devices.

The last two pieces to our new landscape is an aggressive upgrade to all in-school Wi-Fi radios to accommodate the increase of devices and the rollout of the newest internet provider in North America – StarLink. Starlink is allowing us to increase our internet speeds by factors of 20-30 times and at less cost than all existing service providers. We have already implemented about 6 systems and the results are incredibly exiting (FAST, comparatively speaking).

Between hardware and software acquisitions and internet upgrades, Frontier invested nearly \$3,000,000 during the year.

And finally, to help ensure these investments hold the greatest value, an Educational Technology Committee has been struck to help direct Frontier’s investments in technology and to promote the use of existing ones.



# Financial Information

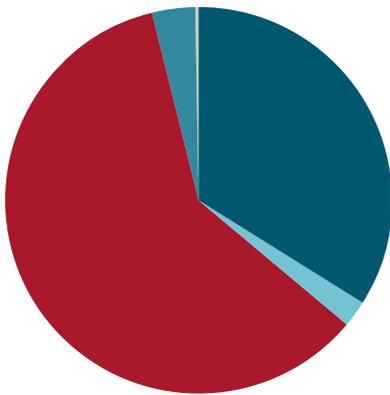
## Expenditure Comparisons

Type	2017/18 Actual	2018-19 Actual	2019-20 Actual	2020-21 Actual
Regular Instruction	59,623,308	60,272,999	61,224,937	63,101,769
Student Support Services	20,314,037	21,312,857	19,758,187	21,461,810
Community Education Services	6,271,172	6,456,675	6,431,103	6,085,957
Administration	7,046,575	7,290,505	7,082,682	7,400,517
Instructional & Pupil Support	7,505,004	7,644,905	7,096,034	7,288,860
Transportation	11,723,894	11,949,484	10,760,948	11,415,723
Operations & Maintenance	24,169,791	23,985,328	24,159,280	29,456,563
Fiscal	1,250,671	1,215,206	1,252,201	1,412,015
<b>Total</b>	<b>137,904,452</b>	<b>140,127,959</b>	<b>137,765,372</b>	<b>147,623,214</b>

## Budget Themes

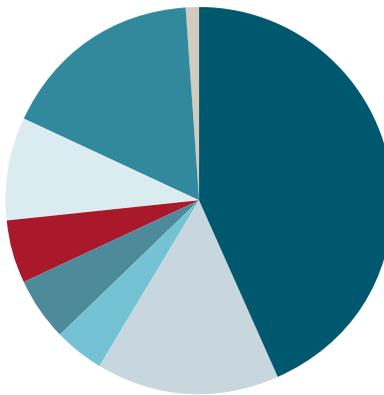
- Academics (Literacy & Numeracy)
- Indigenous Way of Life
- Staff and students wellbeing

Revenue



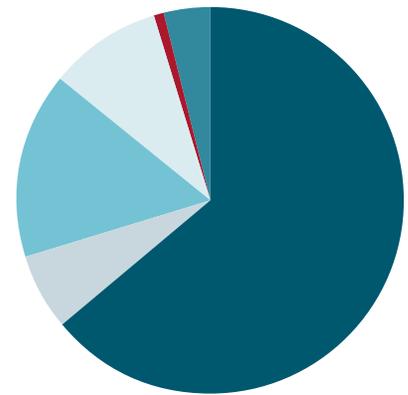
- Provincial Government
- Municipal Government
- ISC / First Nations
- Private Organizations
- Other Sources

Expenditures by Program



- Regular Instruction
- Student Support Services
- Community Education Services
- Administration
- Instructional and Pupil Support
- Transportation
- Operations and Maintenance
- Fiscal

Expenditures by Object



- Salaries
- Benefits
- Services
- Supplies, Materials and Equipment
- Interest and Bank Charges
- Payroll Tax
- Transfers

<b>Frontier School Division Operating Budget 2021-22 - Revenues and Expenditures</b>	
<b>Revenue</b>	
Provincial Government	\$50,587,468
Municipal Government	\$3,324,394
ISC / First Nations	\$91,592,805
Private Organizations	\$4,697,942
Other Sources	\$340,968
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$150,543,577</b>
<b>Expenditures by Program</b>	
Regular Instruction	\$64,616,400
Student Support Services	\$23,766,408
Community Education Services	\$6,008,848
Administration	\$7,709,478
Instructional & Pupil Support	\$8,430,026
Transportation	\$12,578,832
Operations & Maintenance	\$25,643,585
Fiscal	\$1,290,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 150,043,577</b>
<b>Surplus / (Deficit) before Capital Transfer</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>
<b>Transfer to Capital Fund</b>	<b>(500,000)</b>
<b>Net Current Year Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Expenditures by Object</b>	
Salaries	\$96,826,103
Benefits	\$9,825,298
Services	\$23,457,120
Supplies, Materials & Equipment	\$13,709,497
Interest and Bank Charges	\$15,000
Payroll Tax	\$1,275,000
Transfers	\$4,935,559
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$150,043,577</b>

# “OUR CHILDREN, OUR SUCCESS, OUR FUTURE”

## AREAS OF FOCUS FOR 2021-22

### ACADEMIC FOCUS

Every student will obtain the literacy and numeracy skills to achieve success in their education journey.

### INDIGENOUS WAY OF LIFE FOCUS

Indigenous perspectives, language and way of life in our schools and in our curriculum will advance our path towards reconciliation.

### WELLNESS FOCUS

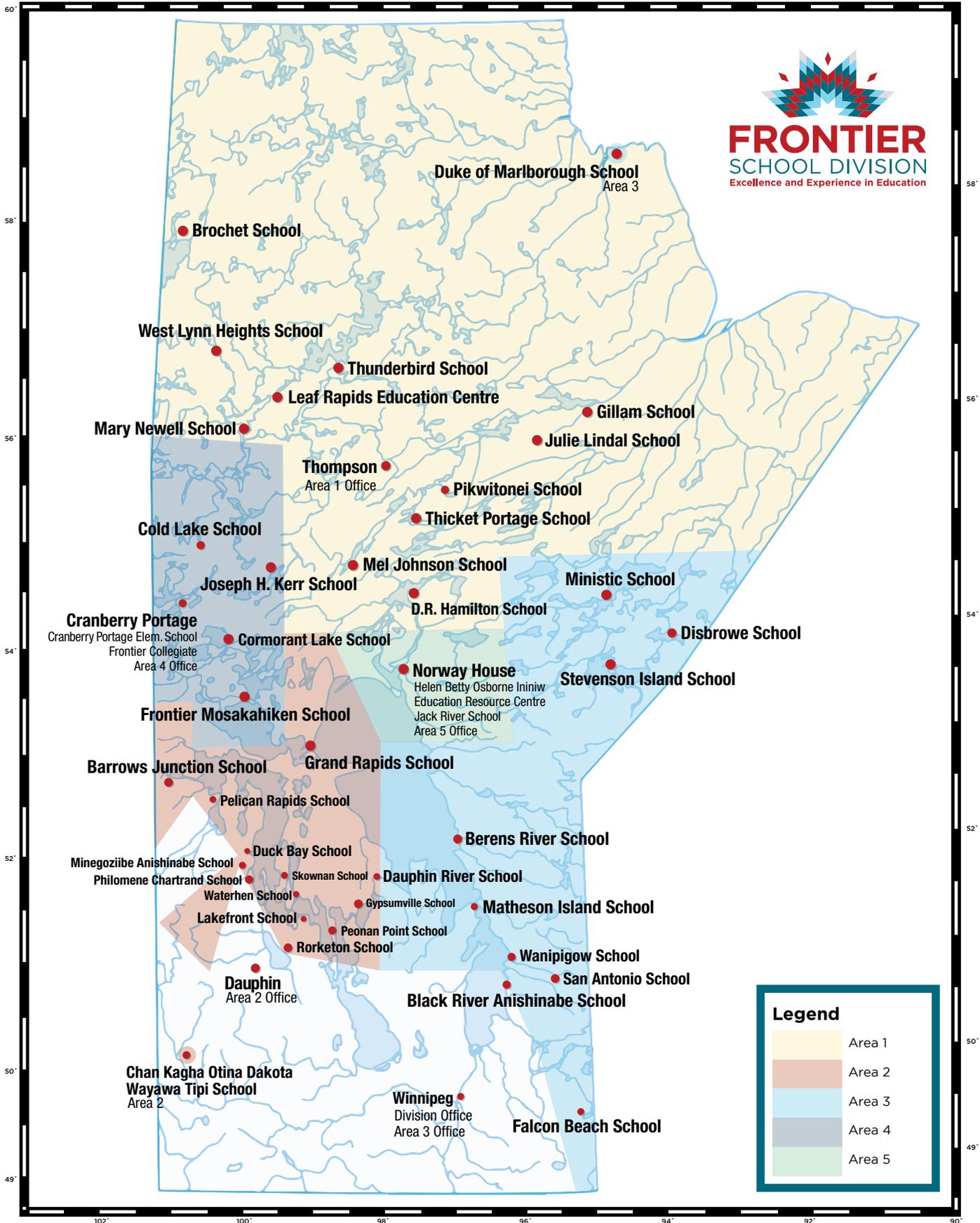
Every school will provide a caring, healthy, safe and inclusive learning and working environment for students, staff and community.

*For more information, please refer to the Strategic Plan available on the Division's website.*

*As a school division we acknowledge that our schools are located on the ancestral lands of the Anishinabe, Cree, Dakota, Dene, and Oji-Cree and Metis Nations. Given the size of our school division, we are cognizant that our work is carried out every day in a territory that is part of Treaty 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 10.*

Regardless of our ancestry, we walk together building relationships that care for each other and the earth. We are committed to lead by example as we continue to develop and foster healthy and longlasting relationships that centre on our young people and the next seven generations. The work we do together prepares our children to make choices that will leave a lasting legacy and benefit society.

In order to do so, we acknowledge our history so that we may learn from it. We continue to strive to move forward in a better way, guided by the seven sacred teachings and recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.



**Legend**

- Area 1
- Area 2
- Area 3
- Area 4
- Area 5





# **FRONTIER**

## **SCHOOL DIVISION**

**Excellence and Experience in Education**

30 Speers Rd  
Winnipeg, MB R2J 1L9

Phone: (204) 775-9741  
Fax: (204) 775-9940

Email: [frontier@fsdnet.ca](mailto:frontier@fsdnet.ca)

[www.fsdnet.ca](http://www.fsdnet.ca)