



## AREA 2 – BIRDTAIL DAKOTA FIRST NATION



**Traditional community name:**

Chan Kagma Otina  
(People of the log houses)



**Population:**

Approximately 500 on reserve.



**School:**

Chan Kagma Otina  
Dakota Wayawa  
Tipi School



**Access:**

Paved all-weather road to the reserve



**Location:**

Approximately 290 km northwest of Winnipeg and approximately 50 km north of Virden.



**Indigenous Language(s):**

Dakota



**Treaty territory:**

There are no historic treaties between the Dakota peoples and the government of Canada.



**Average Temperatures:**

January	July
High -10° C	High 30° C
Low -22° C	Low 14° C

## CHAN KAGHA OTINA DAKOTA WAYAWA TIPI SCHOOL

**Grades:** Nursery to Grade 12 and Adult Education

**Enrollment:** Approximately 185

**Staff:** Approximately 33

Frontier School Division is known for friendly people, cultural diversity, and the natural beauty of Northern Manitoba.

We are committed to the success of all students and believe that quality, inclusive education includes Indigenous perspectives, local language(s) and cultural programming. Providing meaningful, appropriate, and locally relevant education is a shared responsibility of all staff members.



## Housing

There are currently no teacherages available at Birdtail Dakota First Nation. However, many teachers rent accommodations in the nearby communities of Birtle, Virden, or Brandon. Average rent for houses in Birtle range from \$600 to \$800 per month and from \$800 to \$1200 per month for houses and apartment rentals in the Town of Virden. In the City of Brandon, rental rates average \$1261 per month for a 3-bedroom apartment.

## PROGRAM AND ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHT

In addition to a Dakota language and culture program for Nursery to Grade 8, students have opportunities to expand their knowledge at a community hosted culture camp every summer. Throughout the school year students are able to connect with local Elders and Knowledge Keepers. Extracurricular activities include several clubs (running, cooking, crafts, etc.). The school also hosts regular gym nights, a powow club and an annual community powwow in partnership with the Birdtail Dakota First Nation's Jordan's Principle - Mato C'istina Tipi Program. The Dakota language and cultural references are visible throughout the school.

## About the Community

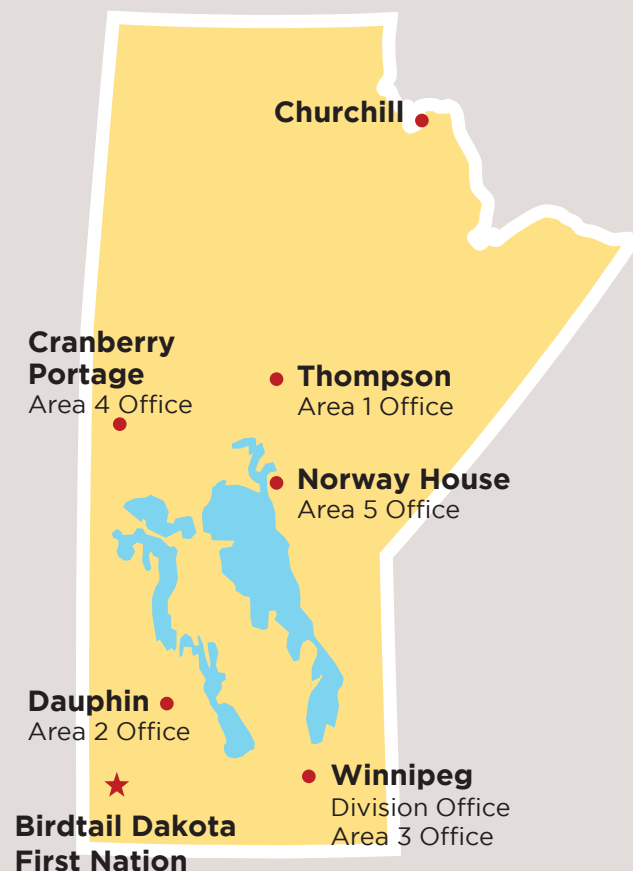
Birdtail Dakota First Nation is located near the Manitoba-Saskatchewan border in the scenic Assiniboine River/Birdtail Creek Watershed. This area is within the vast traditional territories of the Dakota that extends from south of the Great Lakes to the Rocky Mountains at the Alberta/British Columbia border.

The name of the school echoes the Dakota name for the community, which refers to the origins of the Birdtail reserve.

The Dakota language and culture are a priority to the community and is visible throughout the school. Local Elders promote the Dakota cultural value system, which is based on love/kindness, respect, and helping/being of service to others.

Of the nine Dakota First Nations in Canada, five are within Manitoba. However, there are many dialects of the Dakota language. The dialect spoken by the people of Birdtail First Nation is shared by only one other Dakota community located in Saskatchewan.

**Frontier School Division spans nearly 75% of the province and is organized into 5 Areas.**



## Frontier School Division Contacts

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