

# Fishing Lake First Nation

*Who we are and where we come from...*



Nokasis Literacy Project



Lashiah.S  
FishingLake

This book is dedicated to our  
Kichi Anishinabe (Elders) of Fishing Lake First  
Nation. Without their shared wisdom, we would  
not know who we are or where we come from.



Our Kichi-Anishinabe told us that it is very important to start writing things down. We need to write to remember.

Much of our history has been lost due to Residential Schools, the Indian Act, Pass Permit System and other Government Laws.



Our ancestors originally came from the area that is now known as Toronto. Before the newcomers came, the Saulteaux people began to move westward. We are Anishinabe people. Most of our people are from the Bear Clan.



Our people lived off the land eating buffalo, elk, deer, muskrat, moose, fish, ducks, geese, gophers, skunks, beaver, rabbits and berries and herbs. Everything was cleaned before being eaten.

The foods eaten kept our people healthy.





Fishing Lake School  
Uma Bonaventura

Fishing Lake was once part of a larger band.  
The band separated into three because the newcomers wanted to farm and live lakeside.

The bands are now known as Fishing Lake,  
Yellowquill, and Kinistin.



Micheal:Pelly  
Gr:6

The people of Fishing Lake chose to live by the lake because of the water for survival. All around the lake there was wildlife, fish, wood, medicines, and berries.

Everything necessary for the people to live could be found by the lake.



Treaty 4 was signed in 1874 by Oozawaskooquinape (Yellowquill), Kenistin and Nepinawa.

The treaties were signed to protect our way of life. Treaties were signed by our forefathers with the Spirit and intent that they were signing with the Creator. The treaties are to last as long as the sun shines, the grass grows green and the rivers flow. Instead, we lost it due to Residential Schools, the Pass Permit System and other Government Laws.



Mina Paquachan

Fish and the Song  
Dance

Through the many years that have passed, we have had many leaders. The Chiefs of Fishing

Lake have been:

Chamkun (Late)

Sabitawasis (Late)

Joe Young (Late)

Arthur Anderson (Late)

Percy Severight (Late)

Matthew Smoke (Late)

George Kayseas

Allan Paquachan (Late)

Michael Desjarlais

Shirley Wolfe-Keller

Derek Sunshine





Although most of our ways have been lost,  
through education we are building our nation to  
be strong again.

We have carpenters, truck drivers, labourers,  
artists, dancers, mechanics, doctors, lawyers,  
electricians, plumbers, professors, nurses,  
teachers and more.



We have our Kichi Anishinabe who teach the younger people the ways of our people and the ceremonies and traditions.

Through treaty we have a school on reserve; a school that teaches the students the Nakawe language, a school that embraces the culture and traditions of the Nakawe people.

Through our education we are learning who we are and where we come from.



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