

Lac La Ronge Indian Band – background information

A proud Woodland Cree nation, the Lac La Ronge Indian Band is the 6th largest First Nation in Canada and the largest in western Canada, with a population of over 8,400 members. The band is headquartered in La Ronge, in the middle of its traditional territory, and its membership is spread throughout north-central Saskatchewan, from Little Red River, located in farm country just north of Prince Albert, up to Grandmother's Bay and Stanley Mission, on the banks of the Churchill River.

The LLRIB's councillors are elected to serve the band's six major communities: four for La Ronge, three for Stanley Mission, two for Little Red River (on the LLRIB reserve; the other reserve at Little Red is part of the Montreal Lake Cree Nation), and one each for Hall Lake, Sucker River and Grandmother's Bay.

Four of the five smaller communities (the exception being Sucker River) are self-administrated, which means that the local councillor(s) are responsible for a local staff and sub-office. These sub-offices are responsible for administering designated funds for education, infrastructure and health services in their communities.

First elected in 1997, Chief Tammy Cook-Searson went on to serve on council for eight years before her 2005 election as chief, replacing the retiring incumbent, Chief Harry Cook. She has since gained a national reputation as a passionate voice for First Nations treaty rights and economic advancement, and as a business leader, following in the proud tradition of former chiefs Miles Venne, Tom J. McKenzie and Harry Cook.

In addition to their duties as elected officials, Chief Cook-Searson and her council also serve as the board of directors for Kitsaki Management, the band's business arm. Under the leadership of current CEO (and band member) Russell Roberts, Kitsaki continues to build the band's 28-year tradition of business excellence and job creation. In 2007, Asiniy Gravel Crushing became the newest addition to the Kitsaki group of companies, which also includes ventures in trucking, environmental monitoring, catering, hospitality, insurance, mining services and wild organic food production.