Northern Village of Ile a la Crosse

Community Highlights

Situated on a peninsula extending 21 kilometres into Lac Ile a la Crosse, this Métis village is rich with history and is the second oldest community in Saskatchewan. Louis Riel’s grandparents were married in Ile a la Crosse and his sister, Sara Riel, worked at the convent and is buried in the local cemetery.¹

Local Government

Mayor and Council:²
- Mayor: Dwayne Favel
- Aldermen:
  - Vince Ahenakew
  - Myra Malboeuf
  - Dorothy Dubrule
  - John P Daigneault
  - Peter Durocher
  - Beverly McLean

Métis Council:⁴
- Northern Region III
- Local # 21 and # 174

Tribal Council:
- Meadow Lake Tribal Council (MLTC)

Demographics⁵

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Ile a la Crosse</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>Saskatchewan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>1,341</td>
<td>33,919</td>
<td>968,157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aboriginal population (%)</td>
<td>92.5%</td>
<td>85.8%</td>
<td>14.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth population, 15 to 29 (%)</td>
<td>23.1%</td>
<td>25.6%</td>
<td>20.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major Languages</td>
<td>Cree, Dene, English, Michif</td>
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First Nations Presence:³
- There are no First Nations (Reserves) in the immediate vicinity of Ile-à-la-Crosse
- Nearest First Nations:
  - English River (201 km)
  - Canoe Narrows (65 km)
  - Birch Narrows First Nations (172 km)

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Labour Force Participation Rate, 15+ (%)</td>
<td>51.7%</td>
<td>50.4%</td>
<td>68.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment Rate, 15+ (%)</td>
<td>44.9%</td>
<td>40.3%</td>
<td>64.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment Rate (%)</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
<td>20.2%</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median family income:</td>
<td>$42,073</td>
<td>$31,007</td>
<td>$58,563</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median earnings (persons 15+ years):</td>
<td>$19,694</td>
<td>$18,449</td>
<td>$23,025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population 25+ with a high school diploma (%)</td>
<td>20.5%</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
<td>26.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population 25+ with a trades, college, or university certificate, diploma, or degree (%)</td>
<td>41.8%</td>
<td>35.8%</td>
<td>53.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Economic Environment**

**Key Industries – community and surrounding area**
- The mining industry is a large employer, with employees doing shifts “in and out” at the various northern mining locations.

**Major Employers**
- Cameco, AREVA, Oil Sands Quest
- Sakitawak Development Corporation
- Province of Saskatchewan
- Ile-a-la Crosse School Div. #112
- Keewatin Yatthe Regional Health Authority
- Ile a la Crosse Friendship Centre

**Occupations**
- Teacher, Nurse, License Practical Nurse, Lab Tech.
- Mine labourer, Security Guard, Heavy Equipment Operator
- 1A Truck Driver
- Construction/Carpentry, Electrical, Plumbing, Welder
- Fire Suppression/Initial Attack (seasonal)
- Commercial fisher (seasonal)
- Various professional occupations in government-funded agencies (e.g. health, education, social services, justice etc)

**Local Business Make-up**
- 5 – local contractors (housing authority)
- 3 – Taxi services (medical transportation services)
- 3 – Gas/Propane/Diesel Stations
- 1 – Grocery Store, Confectionary, Exploration Contractor, Electrical and Plumbing contractors, Mineral water supplier, restaurant, motel, tavern, pharmacy, radio & digital cable television, car wash, dollar store, movie rentals.

**Local Financial Institutions**
- None

**Transportation Services Road**
- Access to Ile a la Crosse is provided by Highway 908, 21km southeast, off the Highway 155 access.

**Air**
- Charter Air service is provided by Courtesy Air
- Medivac (since Ile a la Crosse serves as a regional hospital/health services centre)

**Bus Service**
- Young’s Bus Services/STC to Prince Albert.
## Strengths and Potential

- Year-round tourism opportunities: lakes, beaches and water sports in the summer; snowmobiling, groomed trails for cross-country skiing and ice fishing in the winter
- Large, spacious lake front residential lots
- Ile a la Crosse is a member of the Primrose Lake Economic Development Corporation (PLEDCO) which has a community economic and infrastructure fund.
- Centralized offices for government-funded agencies (e.g. health, education, social services, justice, CanSask etc)

## Challenges

- Isolated access (no thru traffic on Highway 908)
- Lack of professionals: Real estate; Accountant and Lawyer

## Future Development

- Given its proximity to oil sands prospecting, Ile a la Crosse has the potential to be a major labour supply point for oil sands development.
- Economic Development Strategy for the community and surrounding area, lake front property and War veterans park east of and along Highway #155.
- Trades School, Electrical and Welding Shops
- Youth Group Home

## Training and Education

### Post-secondary institutions

- Gabriel Dumont Institute
- High school has adult education – high school completion (“Storefront High School Education”)
- Adult Basic Education (in the high school)

### Career and Employment Services

- Saskatchewan Advanced Education, Employment and Labour’s CanSask has a head office in Ile a la Crosse which serve the majority of the region.
- Gabriel Dumont Institute Training and Employment office

### High School

- Rossignol High School (Grades 7 to 12); located in the Integrated Services Centre
- Industrial arts labs, science rooms, resource room, outdoor education compound (camping, skiing, snowshoeing, canoeing), sports field and playgrounds.

### Elementary Schools

- Rossignol Elementary School (Kindergarten to Grade 6)

### Library

- Ile a la Crosse Public Library
- Library in Elementary School also.

## Infrastructure

### Integrated Services Centre

- Multi-use facility Includes: health care, public health, high school, adult education, day care, library, and common rooms for community groups activities.

### Highway

- Access to Ile a la Crosse is by Highway 908 (Thin Membrane Surface)
Northern Village of Ile a la Crosse

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Airports / Airstrips</th>
<th>• 3,900 ft. treated gravel, lights, IFR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Municipal Roads</td>
<td>• All municipal roads are paved</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Water and Sewer                      | • New water treatment plant to opened in 2008
|                                      | • New Lagoon to be constructed in 2010 |
| Power and Energy                     | • Power: Provincial grid               |
|                                      | • Natural Gas: No                     |
|                                      | • Heating fuels: Oil, wood, propane   |
| Information Technology               | • High-speed internet is available.    |
|                                      | • Public high-speed access provided through Community Access Centre, which provides access to online education, e-commerce, and community services. |
| Cellular Service                     | • Yes                                 |

### Housing

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<td>Total private dwellings occupied by usual residents</td>
<td>405</td>
<td>9,245</td>
<td>387,140</td>
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<tr>
<td>Owned dwellings (%)</td>
<td>48.1%</td>
<td>36.6%</td>
<td>71.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rented dwellings (%)</td>
<td>51.9%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>25.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dwellings that require major repair (%)</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>37.9%</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average household size</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average value of owned dwelling</td>
<td>$64,732</td>
<td>$98,022</td>
<td>$132,111</td>
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### Emergency Services

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<tr>
<td>RCMP</td>
<td>Yes, 5 full time RCMP Officers stationed in community</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hospital</td>
<td>Yes (located in the Integrated Services Centre)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Emergency department (also serves Buffalo Narrows)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 11 acute care beds; 17 long term care beds, 1 Palliative care</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Community health services, including public health, mental health, home care and family healing centre</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Radiology and labs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ambulance</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fire</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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### Recreation

- Integrated Services Centre: gymnasium, fitness centre, track, soccer and ball diamonds
- War Veterans Park municipally owned and maintained 35 km south of Ile a la Crosse. Permanent 80x60 structure for large gatherings, Camping areas, Small Kitchen areas, fire pits, large beach, Boat Launch and dock.
- Hockey arena (natural ice)
- Curling rink (artificial ice)
- Outdoor facilities include:
Northern Village of Ile a la Crosse

- 2 ball diamonds
- All-purpose court (tennis, basketball)
- Beach areas
- Boat launch
- Skating Rink
- Cross Country Ski Trails
- Sliding Hills
- Walking, biking and jogging trails (McKay Point)
- Sakitawak Recreation and Minor Sports
- Youth Activity Centre
- Friendship Centre
- Elementary school also has a gym

### Distance from Larger Centres

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ile a la Crosse to:</th>
<th>Fort McMurray</th>
<th>La Ronge</th>
<th>Meadow Lake</th>
<th>Prince Albert</th>
<th>Saskatoon</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>km</td>
<td>796</td>
<td>309</td>
<td>222</td>
<td>544</td>
<td>685</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

FNMR-Northern Affairs Div. 02/04/2012

Ile a la Crosse