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# Berens River

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## **Community Overview**

### **History**

The community adjoins the independent Berens River reserve and lies on provincial Crown land. Information refers to the non-reserve side, unless otherwise noted.

### **Access**

The community is located along the eastern shore of Lake Winnipeg at the mouth of the Berens River, 292 kilometres north of Winnipeg by air and is accessible by all-weather road.

### **Governance**

The community was first recognized in 1970 and is represented by a mayor and council under The Northern Affairs Act.

### **Economic Overview**

The area is part of the Precambrian Shield region of Manitoba. A large part of the region is quite flat and well forested while the balance is rock outcrops and marsh. Economic activity includes fishing, trapping, forestry, wild rice and a rock quarry operation. Local logging contractors operate independently.

### **Contacts**

Berens River Community Council  
Box 129  
Berens River, MB R0B 0A0

Phone: 204-382-2417

Fax: 204-382-2798

Email: berensrivercc@outlook.com

Office hours: Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### **Staff**

The community employs a part-time community administrative officer, public works employee/ water operator and backup.

### **Statistics**

Census Year	Population
1985	195

1991	140
1996	105
2001	42
2006	153
2011	111
2016	135
2021	103

*\*information is from Statistics Canada*

### **Households**

There are 35 housing units.

### **Boundary**

Manitoba Regulation 67/2009 refers to Director of Surveys at Winnipeg as No. 19549. See map.

### **Property Assessment and Taxes**

Information is from the 2023 assessment roll and Tax Rates Regulation (2023) of Manitoba Municipal and Northern Relations.

Value of Assessment	
Business	\$41,100
Real Property	\$1,804,760
Total	\$1,845,860
Grants-in-lieu	\$257,770
Exempt	\$626,730
Rate of Taxation	
General Municipal	5.7 mills
Business Tax	3.75%
School Levies	
Education Support	8.140 mills
Frontier School Division #48	12.422 mills

### **Emergency Services**

#### **Fire**

There is no fire department. The community has a mutual fire aid agreement with the reserve to respond locally.

#### **Police**

Police response is from the Berens River RCMP detachment. Phone: 204-669-3268. Temporary local detention facilities are in the RCMP trailer.

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### **Medical**

Medical response is provided by the staff of the federal nursing station located on the reserve.

### **Communication Services**

#### **Phone**

BellMTS provides individual line service and digital switching with toll free calling to: Little Grand Rapids, Poplar River. Office toll free: 204-225-5687.

#### **Cellular Service/High-Speed Internet**

Available.

#### **Wi-Fi**

Unavailable.

### **Community-Based Services**

#### **Airstrip**

Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure, Northern Airports operate a 2,900' x 75' crushed rock strip with terminal building and remote controlled lighting on the edge of the community. Office: 204-945-3421 in Winnipeg or Berens River airport manager Phone: 204-382-2021 or Fax: 204-382-2342.

#### **Hydro**

Manitoba Hydro provides landline electric power with limited emergency diesel power. Office toll free: 1-888-624-9376.

#### **Water**

Two basic water supply systems have been installed to provide potable water on both sides of Berens River. Water pumped from Lake Winnipeg is filtered, chlorinated and distributed to residents. Some homes on the south side are directly connected to the distribution system. The reserve water system is independent of the community system.

#### **Wastewater**

Wastewater is hauled by pump-out truck to a lagoon located on the reserve, north of the river.

#### **Waste Disposal**

Solid waste is transported to a site located on the reserve.

### **Schools**

Frontier School Division operates the Berens River School located on the reserve, a consolidated school for both community and on reserve students. The school serves 436 students from Nursery to Grade 9. Phone: 204-382-2153.

### **Recreation Facilities**

- community hall

### **Commercial Services**

#### **Accommodation**

- Two facilities at Berens River offer both meals and lodging.

#### **Transportation**

- Horbas Trucking and Riverton Transfer provide freight services.
- Daily flights by Northway Aviation provide service to and from St. Andrews Airport.

### **Business Directory**

<b>Business</b>	<b>Phone</b>
Alix Enterprises, General Groceries and Merchandise	204-382-2341
Berens River Hotel	204-382-3000
Berens River Store	204-382-2760
Northern Store	204-382-2118
Oshetoon Building Supplies	204-382-2016

### **Government Services**

#### **Provincial Government Departments**

##### Manitoba Economic Development, Investment, Trade and Natural Resources

Regional Operations, Eastern Region, District Office and conservation officer Phone: 204-345-1410 and fire operations manager Phone: 204-345-1419 in Lac du Bonnet.

##### Manitoba Environment and Climate Change

Regional drinking water officer Phone: 204-642-6134 in Gimli. Environment officer Phone: 204-345-1490 in Lac du Bonnet. The 24 hour environmental emergency response line toll free: 1-855-944-4888.

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Manitoba Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care  
Public health inspector Phone: 204-345-1447 in  
Lac du Bonnet.

Manitoba Indigenous Economic Development  
Communities Economic Development Fund  
(CEDF) Phone: 204-778-4138 in Thompson  
(Head Office) or toll free: 1-800-561-4315.

Manitoba Justice  
Circuit court sits at Berens River coordinated by  
the Selkirk Regional Court Office Phone:  
204-785-5077.

Manitoba Labour and Immigration  
Employment Standards Branch Phone:  
204-945-3352 in Winnipeg or toll free:  
1-800-821-4307.

Inspection and Technical Services, building  
inspector Phone: 204-945-3373 in Winnipeg or  
Email: [TechnicalServices@gov.mb.ca](mailto:TechnicalServices@gov.mb.ca).

Workplace Safety and Health Branch toll free:  
1-855-957-SAFE (7233).

Manitoba Municipal and Northern Relations  
Northern Affairs, North Central Region Phone:  
204-622-2110 in Dauphin. The 24 hour  
emergency number toll free: 1-866-735-3111.

Community and Regional Planning Branch,  
Regional Office Phone: 204-268-6058 in  
Beausejour.

Community Development Branch, Eastman/  
Norman Region regional consultant Phone:  
204-268-6021 in Beausejour.

Office of the Fire Commissioner, emergency  
services officer Phone: 204-726-6855 in  
Brandon or Email: [firecomm@gov.nb.ca](mailto:firecomm@gov.nb.ca). The 24  
hour emergency response number toll free:  
1-888-253-1488.

Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure  
Emergency Measures Organization, General  
Office and emergency management advisor  
Phone: 204-945-3050 in Winnipeg or toll free:  
1-888-267-8298.

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