

Many partners and supporters have joined in the fight for a new school for Attawapiskat, including elementary, secondary, and post—secondary schools, school boards, native and non—native organizations, businesses, and political offices at the local, regional, national and international level.

What can you do?

Join the Fight!

- Start a support group in your community or school.
- Write letters to the government demanding action.
- Write support letters to the Attawapiskat First Nation.
- Start your own campaign!
- Lobby local leadership to take action.
- Email the Prime Minister at pm@pm.gc.ca

There is no question that a new elementary school is required.

- The contamination of the old school is NOT the fault of the First Nation, the Community, or the Education Authority
- There is agreement between INAC and the First Nation on the size of school needed.
- The Capital Planning Study confirms all that has been stated here.
- The recent Throne Speech recognizes Aboriginal Education as a National priority.



Attawapiskat First Nation
Education Authority

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Attawapiskat First Nation

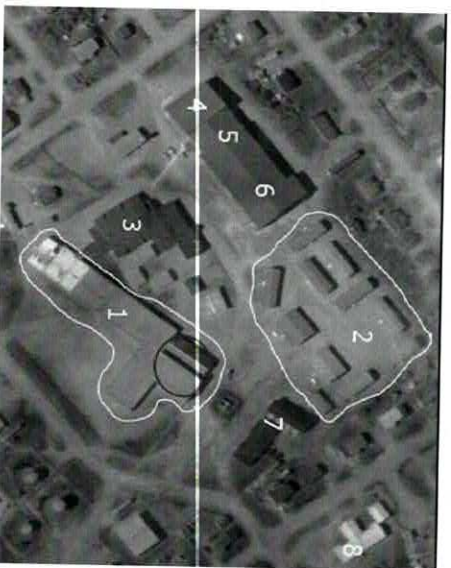


HISTORY OF J.R. NAKOGEE ELEMENTRY SCHOOL AND TIMELINE

- It is believed that in 1979, there was a diesel leak underneath J.R. Nagokee School (houses grades 1-8). 30,000 gallons of diesel was spilled, making it the largest spill in Northern Ontario.
- The leak was not found until 1985 when the oil was discovered.
- From 1985 – 1999 studies were conducted that confirmed the presence of the oil.

HISTORY OF J.R. NAKOGEE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND TIMELINE (cont...)

- Children and teachers started getting sick with nausea and headaches.
- In 2000, the parents learned the seriousness of the situation, and Attawapiskat Chief & Council, under advice of the Education Authority, closed the school
- The government then provided portables. Minister Robert Nault agreed in 2000 to begin plans for a new school.
- Three Indian Affairs Ministers- Robert Nault (Lib.), Andy Scott (Lib.) and Jim Prentice (Con.) - promised to support to build a new school.
- In Dec 2006 Minister Jim Prentice agreed to support the decision for a new school and it was thought that construction would begin Spring 2008.



- In August of 2007, Minister Jim Prentice and the community approved the final draft of the plans for the new school. Construction was to begin spring of 2008.
- In August 2007, the Education Authority received a letter from INAC stating that they were proceeding to the Treasury board hearing, but then on the 14th of August 2007, Chuck Strahl was appointed the INAC Minister and the entire project died.
- Chuck Strahl has never officially cancelled the project.
- Mr. Strahl has never provided any documentation for cancelling the school.
- In March, Strahl told the Toronto Star that he "just can't tell them right now when it is going to be built" (Toronto Star, March 10)
- On May 29, 2008 the grade eight students of Attawapiskat cancelled their school trip to Niagara Falls in order to go to Ottawa where they met with Minister Strahl who again emphasized that there were no plans to build a school. The kids later led the Ottawa National Day of Action protest.
- The diesel under the portables has caused the ground to shift- this has caused the windows to be jammed shut and created gaps under the doors, allowing cold air in. This is also affecting emergency doors, sealing them shut.

- In the winter, many kids wear their winter coats in class. They have to walk across the yard to use the gym or the computer lab, which cuts into class time.
- The portables, which are meant to be a temporary solution, have been in use for 8 years to date.
- With the constant ground shifting. These Portables were not built to withstand the shifting and thus, has caused numerous problems.

In the meantime our children continue:

- To suffer in substandard conditions
- To be denied the advantages of belonging to a single school
- To suffer loss of self esteem due to being treated as second class citizens
- To witness endless fighting and being denied their rights under the UN Convention
- To suffer the indignity of being lied to by adults
- To have their "hopes and dreams for the future" put in jeopardy
- This system of "Educational Apartheid" cannot be allowed to continue. There is far too much at stake - not only for our children but also for all aboriginal children in Canada.