

Living in the
Schefferville
–Kawawachikamach
Region



Useful Information 2020-2021

This brochure is intended to help new staff working in Kawawachikamach have a clear sense of how various aspects of moving north works, what the Central Québec School Board provides as services and supports and some of what a newcomer might expect.

Making the decision to move north



Planning an actual move

Once you take a look at the various information about life in the Kawawachikamach region of Northern Québec, there are practical details that you should be aware of.

For example, there are currently two ways to travel to and from the regions—either by plane or train. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the availability of those services has varied tremendously as the local emergency measures committees grapple with trying to balance the risks with accessibility and freedom of movement. However, under normal circumstances, there are flights from Québec City, Montréal, Sept-Îles and elsewhere that go directly to Schefferville, which is the only airport in the Schefferville-Matimekush-Lac John-Kawawachikamach region. As a new teacher, the school board will pay your transportation to Schefferville, including your personal belongings, whether you arrive from Québec City or Montreal. If you are starting from another location, you should contact Human Resources at the school board for information on how that works.

There is also the Tsheutit train, which runs between Sept-Îles and Schefferville according to a schedule that can be found on their website. That trip takes approximately 13 hours one way, and the train normally carries passengers, goods (perishable, machinery, merchandise, equipment, etc.). You can put a car on the train and the school board will help with that cost.

It should also be noted that during a school year, there are several (3) lump sum payments deposited with your pay. Those amounts are intended to cover the cost of travel down to the southern part of the province (Québec City or Montreal) so that you can return south three times during the year—usually this means at the holidays, in early spring when there is a two week break coupling a mid-season break with Goose Week, and for summer. In addition, if you have dependents, the School Board will take that into account.

Climate

Given that the climate of the Schefferville-Matimekush-Lac John-Kawawachikamach region includes reaching some seriously cold temperatures during the winter months, the first thing you might want to consider is whether you are someone who will enjoy some of the outdoor activities that the region has to offer. There is plenty of snowmobiling, and also snowshoeing, cross-country and backwoods skiing, and hunting. In warmer climates, you can hike, bike, walk, fish, go berry picking, bird watching and just about everything in between.







Availability of various services

There are three (3) CLSCs, or local community services centres, one in each community. Medical services are available there, as well as mental health, social services, and other related services. In the case of a need for urgent care, a medevac system is in place.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the three communities meet on a regular basis to reassess the situation to ensure the wellbeing of all people in the area, in particular, those considered most vulnerable. Information can be found at various locations, including the Naskapi-Radio Facebook page and other local sources.

A dentist comes regularly to the area as well.

In Kawawachikamach, there are also services available through the Naskapi Nation for members of that community, including wellness, Jordan's Principle and many others. Information can be found on the Naskapi Nation website (Naskapi.ca).

There are a couple of garages, in case you bring a vehicle north by train.

There are several grocery stores, of which the Northern is the largest. However, in Kawawachikamach, the Manikin is the closest to the school, which makes it convenient. At the Northern, in Schefferville, you can also find household goods, some clothing items

and even furniture. There is also a hardware store beside the post office in Schefferville, as well as a few places to eat in Schefferville as well as some in Kawawa.

Other services in Kawawachikamach include, normally, being able to use the community swimming pool, workout equipment, participating in some of the sports activities (hockey at the arena, basketball, a fishing derby and so on, depending on season and availability).



Housing

For education staff arriving from outside the Kawawachikamach-Schefferville region, housing is provided by the Central Québec School Board as part of an employee's benefits. As such, staff pay a significantly reduced amount per month, which includes heat, electricity, snow removal, Internet and telephone.

Homes—which may be 2-bedroom or more, depending on whether the home is part of a quad, duplex or a single-family home—are renovated and fully furnished and “move-in ready.” All homes are located in Schefferville (photos below are from Knob Lake, in Schefferville, or are views of or from staff housing.)

All a person needs to bring is some bedding, towels and a smile!







