



Kehewin Cree Nation School Kehewin, AB

As part of the Kehewin Cree Nation's mission to "provide holistic education to all students for life-long learning", this elementary school welcomes an open learning space for the Kehewin Indigenous community.

The Cree community's core values of "Knowing, Being, and Doing" were integrated throughout the design process of this mass timber school. As an expressive and multifunctional space, the architectural concept drove the design for flexible and efficient layouts, camber in maximizing framing efficiency, and reduction in building materials. Creative collaboration was a critical part to the design, particularly with key feature areas that highlighted the structure, including a feature stair in the gathering space. Through close collaboration between the design team, architect, and contractor throughout the design and construction phase, an iterative process was used to balance the complex concave geometry and constructability considerations.

The Cree teaching room is one of the focal points of this K-12 facility, created by a sense of warmth and gathering through the double-height space of exposed wood structure, which opens up to a king post truss with curved glulams. Additional learning amenities include a gathering fire pit, an amphitheater, and a play area.

Fast + Epp

Status
Construction Phase

Project Cost
\$20 million

Area
33,000 ft² (3,000 m²)

Architect
Manasc Isaac

Client
Kehewin Cree Nation

