



Métis Crossing Cultural Gathering Centre Smoky Lake, AB

This new cultural Gathering Centre sits on a 512-acre site along the North Saskatchewan River – just outside of Smoky Lake, as a place to come together to celebrate and learn about Métis culture. Providing ample space for gatherings, meetings, learning, and more, the Gathering Centre also features an expansive 2,600 square foot deck and canopy on the south side, providing scenic views of the river valley.

Timber was a natural choice for the primary structural material given its long history of use in traditional Métis construction practices. To make the best use of the natural properties and strengths in timber, many different types of the material were utilized throughout the building to achieve functional and aesthetic goals. The exposed timber structure is featured prominently in the main gathering hall. The butterfly-shaped roof presented a unique challenge for the design team as this area was intended to be entirely column-free while spanning 47 feet across the hall. The truss shape is intended to mimic the infinity symbol of Métis culture.

The Cultural Gathering Centre will enable Métis Crossing to provide year-round services hosting events and acting as a first-class tourism attraction within the province.

Fast + Epp

Status
Completed 2020

Project Cost
\$8.5 million

Area
13,500 ft² (1,250 m²)

Architect
Manasc Isaac

Client
Métis Nation of Alberta

