



**PAUINGASSI FIRST  
NATION COMMUNITY  
K4 TO GRADE 9 SCHOOL  
PAUINGASSI, MANITOBA**

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ArcelorMittal Dofasco Steel Design, Spring  
2014)

**DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION  
TEAM**

**OWNER:** Pauingassi First Nation

**ARCHITECT:** Stantec Architecture  
and AGB Architecture

**GENERAL CONTRACTOR:** NDJ  
Construction

**CLADDING SUPPLIER:** Vicwest

## Steel contributes to School's natural feel



The Ojibway community of Pauingassi nestles on the shores of Fishing Lake 280 km (170 miles) northeast of Winnipeg and 24 km (15 miles) north of Little Grand Rapids. To get there you have to fly in, then take a boat or float plane during the summer and in the winter a snowmobile along the winter access road. That presented logistical challenges for a project such as building a school. Materials were shipped ahead of time and stored, ready for construction to begin the following spring.

Also challenging was to design a structure that was compatible with its surroundings – in this case pine trees, mosses, lichens, and rocks, with water nearby – and with less tangible aspects such as the sensibilities of the Ojibway culture. A collaborative effort involved the architects, community meetings and workshops with teaching staff. In remote first nation communities a school is ideally much more than a bunch of classrooms where kids go to learn. It incorporates after-hours community use including activities as disparate as exercising and mourning.

The result is Omiishosh Memorial School, sitting on a hillside in an old-growth forest, in a U-shaped configuration containing the main entrance facing east as directed by the Ojibway Elders. The 'wings' of the U symbolize the arms of a parent embracing a child. The community areas of the school are located in the base of the U.

The cone above the entry foyer represents a sacred Megis shell – long a fixture of Ojibway history. The interior of the cone is galvanized steel deck. The foyer doors open onto the site's network of paths which are reflected by the interior corridor, a curvilinear 'path' with gathering spaces for students

along the way.

Outside is a chevron brick pattern the colours of sand, bark, and rock. Above it, the prepainted galvanized steel cladding depicts the colour of light reflecting from water. And topping it all off is a green prepainted galvanized steel roof the colour of pines. Steel also contributed to the 2,595m<sup>2</sup> (28,000 sq. ft.) school's construction coming in on time and within budget.

**WALL & CONE PANELS:**

Factory preformed coated metal, 0.79 mm (.0299") thick prefinished galvanized sheet steel, 22mm (7/8") deep corrugated profile @ 689mm (27") centers.

Colour: Bone White QC18273 Perspectra Series (a silicone modified polyester (SMP))

**ROOF CLADDING:**

2,648m<sup>2</sup> (28,500 sq. ft.) prepainted galvanized 0.80 mm (.032") thick, 38 mm x 12 mm wide standing seam @ 400 mm (16") o/c standing seam roof panels

Colour: Slate Blue QC18260 in the Perspectra Series™