

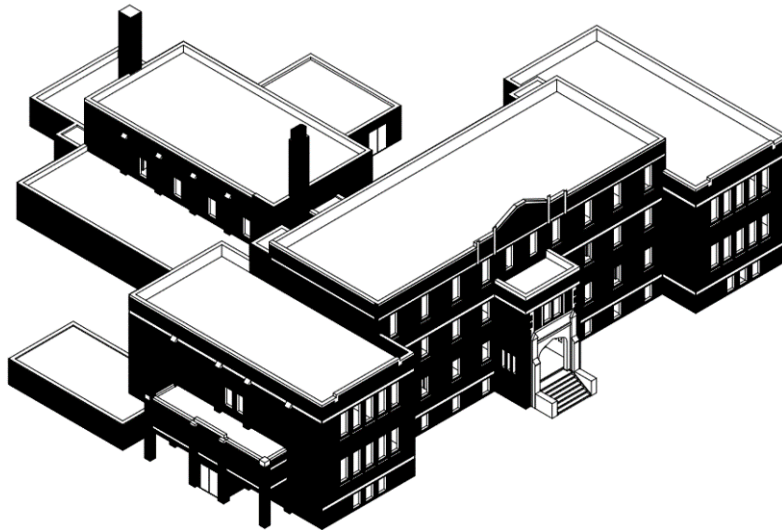
Muskowekwan First Nation Partnership Project – It Is Time

Context

Carleton University's Azrieli School of Architecture and Urbanism is working in partnership with Muskowekwan First Nation (Lestock Saskatchewan) to repurpose the former Muskowekwan Residential School into a place of healing, learning, community economic development and commemoration.

The former residential school, historically known as Muscowequan IRS was declared as one of Canada's Top Ten Endangered Places (2017 list) by the National Trust for Canada. (<https://nationaltrustcanada.ca/nt-endangered-places/muscowequan-residential-school>)

The 1930 structure remaining at the site is the last intact former residential school in Saskatchewan and one of a few extant from 139 former indigenous residential schools in Canada.





The Muscowequan Residential School site housed three main institutional structures from 1888 to 1997. In 1931 by the substantial brick structure that is extant today was constructed. During its operation upwards of 8,000 indigenous children were placed in the Muscowequan Residential School.

There are an estimated sixty or more unidentified, unmarked graves of indigenous children on the site. The intent too in this project is to honour and commemorate these children who never made it home to their families as an integral part of this project.



Muscowequan School – 1932

Hockey game.

Archives of the Missionary Oblate Sisters – M19/04



Muscowequan School – 1935

Girls in their classroom

Archives of the Missionary Oblate Sisters – M19/10

Research and Design Planning

Documentation and research work has been done in partnership with the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (University of Winnipeg) Carlton University Azrieli School of Architecture and Urbanism (laser scan documentation and Studio design work producing design options for the repurposed centre) , University of Alberta and University of Saskatchewan departments of Anthropology (ground-penetrating radar to locate human remains of missing and unidentified children) and Saskatchewan Heritage Foundation, and Saskatchewan Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport, Historic Places Program (2016 condition assessment and grant to seal the building from weather and potential vandalism)

The Carleton University architectural design work has been guided by the ***Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) Calls to Action*** and by the voices of survivors of their traumatized experiences at Muskowekwan . That trauma included physical, psychological, and sexual abuse at the hands of those who operated this institution by contract with the Government of Canada from the 1889 to 1997.

The Rehab-Redevelopment Project



Carleton University, for Muskowekwan First Nation produced excellent Concept Designs that were illustrated in Design Panels, 3D Models, and Log-Book Reports for 3 Phases of our work: namely Phase 1 : Understanding the Site and Indigenous Culture and Values, Phase 2 – Consultation with Indigenous Mentors and Survivors of the Muskowekwan school, Parti Development and Preliminary Concept Designs, Phase 3 : Final Designs, and Production and Presentation of the Studio's outcomes for critical review and delivery to Muskowekwan First Nation.

In June, 2019 a handover ceremony of the ARCC 3302 Studio work occurred at Muskowekwan First Nation Council Chambers. Words of appreciation and gratitude were expressed for the work of Carleton University.

Muskowekwan First Nation is working hard to pursue financial investments to bring their vision to transform this space to a positive place of healing and community economic development.

Project Phases

The building envelope for 3 floors of space entails 75,000 square feet of space

The Project Redevelopment process requires 3 phases of work:

Phase 1 Finalizing Engineering/Architectural and Landscape Architecture Plans

Phase 2 Site and building preparation, demolition and required renovations

Phase 3 Implementing Final Design> Reconstruction, Building Fit-up and Infrastructure Installation

A more detailed Scope of Work and Budget can be submitted to the appropriate federal program, and Muskowekwan First Nation will be glad to work in partnership with Government of Canada partners.

Cost Estimates:

Phase 1 Finalizing Engineering/Architectural and Landscape Architecture Plans

Cost estimate: 750,000

Phase 2 Site and building preparation, roof replacement, demolition and required stabilization renovations

\$ 1,900,000

Phase 3 Implementing Final Design> Reconstruction, Building Fit-up and Infrastructure Installation

75,000 sq feet @ \$250 per square foot Class D costs = \$18,750,000.

Total Costs: \$21,400,000

Benefits to Muskowekwan First Nation and Other First Nations Within the Region

Employment Generation

200 – 250 jobs created during site and building redevelopment phases

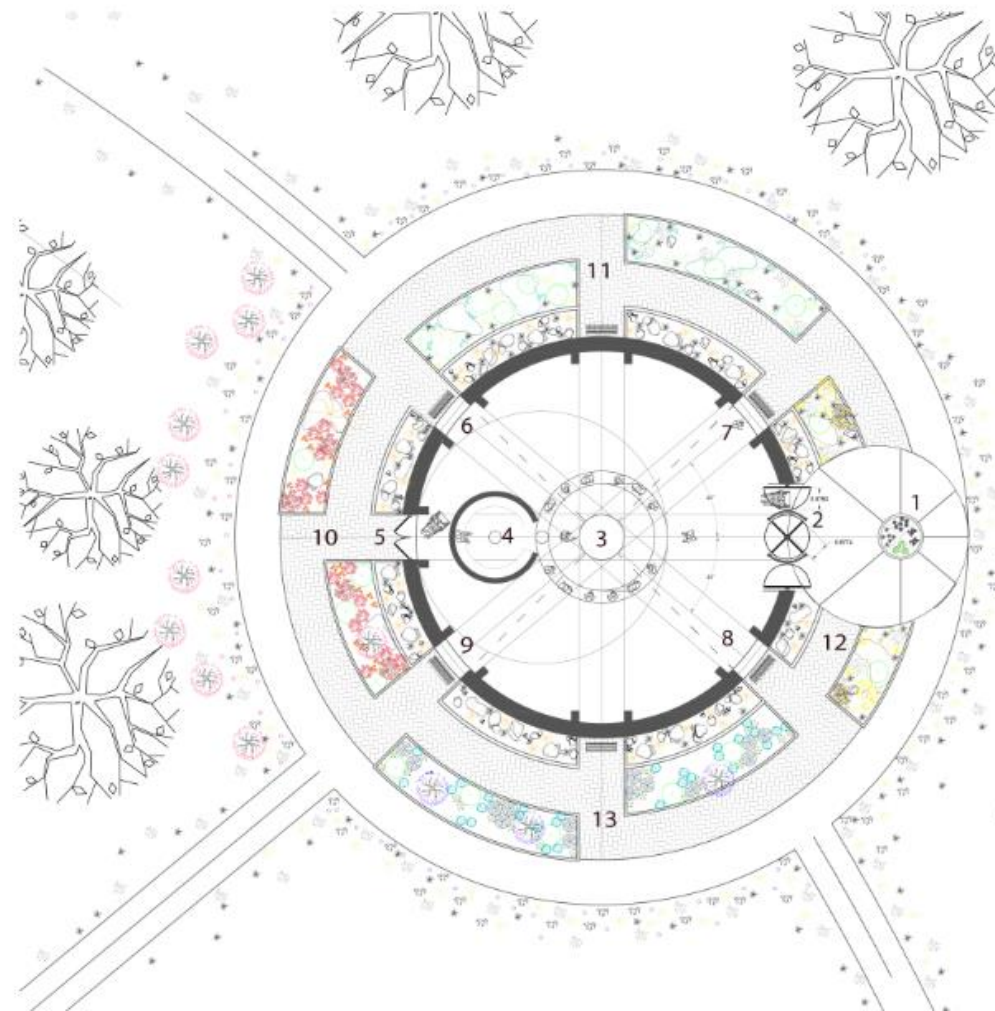
15 full and part-time jobs for operating the Muskowekwan Healing and Community Development Centre in the former residential school

10-20 Enterprises/businesses created annually in the digital hub located within the former residential school

Emotional and Cultural Healing and Wellness Regeneration

Repurposing the former residential school into a space of positive programs, of light and of healing from this place of trauma, and abuse, will advance the process of reconciliation nationally as well as within the region.

[illegible]

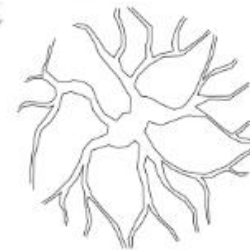


Muskowekwan First Nations Healing Space Plan & Ceremonial Gardens

Drawn by: Patrick Bustin
Date Drawn: 2019
Revisions Date: 2020-04-06
Client: Muskowekwan First Nations
For submission to: Department of Canadian Heritage



- 1 Medicine garden East of entrance
- 2 East entrance & view towards equinox sunrise
- 3 Central fire for gathering and ceremony
- 4 Sweat lodge west of central fire
- 5 West exit & view towards equinox sunset
- 6 View towards summer solstice sunset
- 7 View towards summer solstice sunrise
- 8 View towards winter solstice sunrise
- 9 View towards winter solstice sunset
- 10 Garden of red blooming flowers in West quadrant
- 11 Garden of white blooming flowers in North quadrant
- 12 Garden of yellow blooming flowers in East quadrant
- 13 Garden of blue blooming flowers in South quadrant



The following organizations have endorsed the ongoing work of Muskowekwan First Nation to achieve its vision for repurposing the former residential school to a place of healing and future community economic development, namely:

1. National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation - Ry Moran, Executive Director
2. National Trust for Canada - Natalie Bull- Executive Director
3. Heritage Saskatchewan – Ingrid Cazakoff – CEO
4. Museums Association of Saskatchewan – Wendy Fitch – Executive Director
5. Royal Saskatchewan Museum – Glenn Sutter – Program Director
6. Carleton University –Jill Stoner, Director, Azrieli School of Architecture and Urbanism

Additionally the partnership work between Muskowekwan First Nation and Carleton University's Azrieli School of Architecture and Urbanism has been recognized by National Chief Perry Bellegarde , Assembly of First Nations

Thank you , Miigwetch for the opportunity to submit this briefing paper for Chief and Council, Muskowekwan First Nation.

Appendices

<https://beta.ctvnews.ca/local/saskatoon/a-survivor-s-story--inside-sask--s-last-standing-residential-sch.html>

A survivor's story: Inside Sask.'s last-standing residential school and the push to preserve it

Angelina King

CTV Saskatoon

Published Nov. 14, 2018 11:55 a.m. ET

It was decades before Vera Slippery had her first flashback.

She was nearly 40-years-old.

She says she remembered the punishments – kneeling in the shower for hours, the yelling and swearing, being sent to bed early – but she didn't remember the sexual abuse until she started intensive counselling.

“Then all of a sudden things started to come up,” Slippery says. “I had my first memory and it had to do with an injury I sustained during my sexual abuse.”

Slippery says this while standing in a second-floor hallway at Muscowequan Residential School amid peeling paint, debris and broken glass. Pigeons have made the school home; their droppings cover entire floors of the building and they can be heard cooing. One flies overhead out of one room and disappears.



Muscowequan Indian Residential School

The Muscowequan Indian Residential School opened its doors in 1889 with support from the federal government, according to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation. Its management changed hands to the federal government from the Roman Catholic Church in 1969 and to the Muskowekwan Education Centre in 1982. The current three-story building opened in 1931 after the previous structure burned down. The school ceased operation in 1997 and is the last standing residential school in Saskatchewan. It remains on the Muskowekwan First Nation.

Cynthia Desjarlais, a student at the school and now a band councillor, says when the federal government was offering money to demolish residential schools, this one remained. A group of community members, mainly elders, made the decision in a vote.

“Out of 335 there were four who said tear it down and all the rest who said leave it standing,” she says. “It’s proof to future generations and peoples of Canada that these schools actually existed.”