

TSLEIL-WAUTUTH ADMINISTRATION & HEALTH CENTRE

LOCATION

North Vancouver, British Columbia

SIZE

2900 m²

COMPLETION

2018

ARCHITECT

Lubor Trubka Associates Architects

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER

Fast+Epp

GENERAL CONTRACTOR

Synkra Construction Management

**ENGINEERED WOOD
INSTALLER**

BC Passive House

PROJECT OWNER

Tsleil-Waututh Nation

PROJECT OVERVIEW

When completed in summer 2018, the Tsleil-Waututh Administration and Health Centre will become a hub for the Nation's administration, governance, health and social services. In addition it will serve as a centre for cultural and social engagements, while also preserving official records and historical artifacts. With its comprehensive program, the new building represents the first phase in the implementation of a new centralized community campus.

The Administration and Health Centre is the result of an integrated design process that involved the entire consultant team working in close collaboration with stakeholders, a process very much in keeping with the consensus-based tradition of decision-making in Aboriginal communities. The

building provides a framework for future growth as the needs of the community evolve. The architecture is expressive of Tsleil-Waututh's philosophy and cultural heritage. Tsleil-Waututh means People of the Inlet, and the new building sits on sloping terrain overlooking Burrard Inlet in North Vancouver. The undulating roof celebrates in architectural form the symbiotic relationship between the Tsleil-Waututh people and the sea.

The importance of this relationship to the natural world is further emphasized through the extensive use of wood for both structure and finishes, in addition to the expansive glazing that provides both natural light and views to the adjacent forest.



“From time out of mind, Tseil-Waututh – the ‘People of the Inlet’ – have relied upon the land and water resources of their traditional territory. As the Nation’s new seat of government, the Administration and Health Centre continues this tradition by using as much local timber and other natural resources as possible to build a sustainable and resilient reflection of the Tseil-Waututh community and environment.”

Dale Komanchuk, Director of Public Works, Tseil-Waututh Nation

WOOD USE

Wood features prominently throughout the building, both in the primary and secondary structure, and in the finishes.

The main roof structure is comprised of nail laminated spruce-pine-fir (SPF) panels supported on Douglas fir glue-laminated timber (glulam) beams. Both panels and beams use local material and were prefabricated in British Columbia. The curves were achieved using thin laminations of Douglas fir pressed into three different profiles, the longest being 33 metres in length.

By contrast, the council chamber uses cedar log construction, with the large timbers supplied by the Nation, and dried and milled in British Columbia. For the Tseil-Waututh Nation, cedar holds the highest cultural value of any material, so its use reinforces the importance of this particular space. The stacking of the logs echoes the historic

construction methods, underscoring the importance of tradition even within contemporary life.

The walls are constructed using conventional wood-framing methods most commonly associated with residential construction. However, the virtues of familiarity, speed, economy and the sustainability of local SPF material make the technique appropriate for this project. Locally harvested wood was also used for exterior cladding and interior finishes. The continuity of the wall treatment serves to connect the building with its natural surroundings.

Large cedar planks are featured in the main gathering space connecting an otherwise contemporary design with the Nation’s historic building traditions. Elsewhere, interior millwork, including three reception desks, use a variety of local wood species, including SPF, birch and maple.



Photo credit: KK Law

ESTIMATED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF WOOD USE

V	Volume of wood products used: 1,611 cubic meters	GHG EMISSIONS ARE EQUIVALENT TO:
	U.S. and Canadian forests grow this much wood in: 4 minutes	458 cars off the road for a year
C	Carbon stored in the wood: 1,290 metric tons of CO₂	Energy to operate 229 homes for a year
	Avoided greenhouse gas emissions: 875 metric tons of CO₂	<small>*Estimated by the Wood Carbon Calculator for Buildings, cwc.ca/carboncalculator.</small>
	Total potential carbon benefit: 2,165 metric tons of CO₂	<small>**CO2 refers to CO2 equivalent.</small>

FOR MORE INFORMATION

This profile is published by Forestry Innovation Investment, the Government of British Columbia’s market development agency for forest products.

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