

Building Design Deliverable for Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn Neyagada Wabandangaki
Guardian Program

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The Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn Neyagada Wabandangaki (AOPFN) are working on an environmental monitoring guardian project that is operated under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). UNDRIP essentially allows indigenous nations to negotiate around rights as aboriginal people and make decisions that have greatly contributed to their land and communities. The guardian program requires a new multi-purpose building that will support their research as well as serve as a space that reflects the community's values and culture.

With regards to the building, the client requires a large multi-functional space with 4-5 small offices and a common workspace area. It includes a separate, large main room, that will function as a computer lab space for approximately 8 people to work comfortably and hold meetings in, while additionally providing enough room for an increased capacity. The building must also include a room for a plant processing station, which should be large enough for at least 2 people to work in it. This space also requires room to fit a fridge and freezer to store samples. The building will also have a large equipment storage space for general handheld equipment, and should be large enough to be easily accessible for the relocation and transport of equipment. Additionally, the building will require a utility room for pumps, furnaces, generators, etc. The building also requires at least 1 washroom and a small kitchen for people to store and reheat their food. The kitchen should include a sink, fridge, freezer, microwave and cabinets. With regards to the outdoor portion of the building, parking spaces to accommodate cars, snowmobiles and ATVs are needed, as well as a lean-to for a minimum of 4 pick up trucks with access to a loading dock. In addition to parking, there is also an outdoor space required for cultural activities and gardens. The building also needs to be wheelchair- and walker-accessible; this includes, but is not limited to, ramps, elevators, automatic doors and wider hallways. One portion of the building's ceilings should be 16-20 ft tall to accommodate for the hanging of animal hides. There is no set budget at this point, as well as no current limits for space, with the project's prompt being to 'think big'. The facility will be built near an area of the Ottawa River, located off of highway 60: Golden Lake on Bonnechere River in Renfrew County. Currently, the land is undeveloped and there is road access.

Overall, the building design should be focused on sustainability, nature, accessibility and culture; always with room for growth and improvement. This will be demonstrated in the overall design and architecture of the building so that it will reflect the community and their holistic way of living. By creating a multi-functional building that caters to the success and independence of the AOPFN community, more opportunities to reconnect with the land and one another will be readily available and accessible.

Current questions that need to be addressed as the project moves forward is if the storage space be indoors or outdoors (seperate building like a shed), If the equipment being stored in it just for work done within the facility or also during outdoor sampling. In addition, clarification as the project description says 2 small offices, however during the client meeting it was asked 4-5 small offices and client opinions on if a greenhouse is required.