

# Project Deliverable B

## **Problem statement:**

A need exists for the Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation (AOPFN) to express their culture with a building involving offices, a parking lot, a lab to analyse local samples, and community space for cultural activities.

## **The needs of their building are listed below:**

### Lab

- The lab will have kits for sampling the local wildlife (water sampling, plant sampling, animal sampling). These kits will contain essential tools for sampling, such as lab-grade tweezers, test tubes, etc. It will also contain tools for specific kits, such as pH strips for water acidity, etc.
- Users will interact with handheld equipment on a portable lab workspace to allow the transfer of different samples while working.
- The lab will contain storage in the form of mason jars (for storing crushed dried plants), cabinets (for storing equipment) and large freezers (for storing biological samples).
- The lab will be a biological/computer lab rather than a chemistry lab. The users will not be dealing with any chemicals but instead living samples and data online.
- Safety equipment for biohazards will be in place, such as first aid kits, extinguishers, eyewash and safety showers, etc.

### Land

- The building is built on a lot near their main office
- Enough space for a parking lot that is also connected to the main road
  - Road access is already established
  - Half of the parking lot is reserved as a loading bay for 1-2 large trucks.
  - Parking lot should be big enough to fit multiple vehicles (Chevy 1500 Silverado)
- No specific budget for space
  - Use enough space to satisfy the client's vision of the project
- Storing sheds for snowmobiles and ATVs

### Cultural

- Building should reflect Algonquin culture, art, and lifestyle.
- Early Algonquin villages were made of birchbark structures known as wigwams.
- Things to consider:
  - Community engagement: the building should be designed in a way where it is a gathering place rather than a works site.
  - Include the community in the process of making this building, they can give insight.

- Architectural design reflects who they are as a First Nations People

### Community Space

- Cleared area for cultural activities and doubles as a parking lot
- Include racks for hide tanning, fish harvesting. The roof needs to be 16-20 ft tall to accommodate for these activities
- Parking lot capacity: 2 Chevy Silverado 1500, parking connected to the loading bay

### Building:

- Power, water and internet
- 2 Restrooms, 2 tables, set of chairs in the break room (enough for 10 ppl), 4-5 offices, each with computers, around 5-7 office workers at a time, Small kitchen, including toaster oven, microwave, sink, fridge
  - Building used all year
- Board room for presentations
- Office and lab are separate
- Ideally built with future in mind, since the program will likely grow fast
  - Additional restrooms
- Security (Eg. cameras for liability assets)
- Wheelchair accessibility
- Presentable appearance for events such as school field trips
- Access point for loading area
- No specific preference for amount of floors

We all travelled to Algonquin College to obtain a different perspective on Indigenous structures and designs. We looked at their artwork, including murals of Indigenous landscapes and depictions of animals bounding across the fields. In order to gain better viewpoints, we also spent time investigating the architectural layout of Algonquin College. To show how much nature is a part of the lives of Indigenous peoples, the campus has a variety of living walls. The building has a lot of recycling, paper, and composite bins to demonstrate that Indigenous people value the environment and want to restore nature. In addition, one of our group members worked in a Bioscience lab at U of O. This lab contained microscopes used to analyse samples, along with mobile workstations to transport samples. The lab also included large storage components used for storing biological materials and a freezer. By getting a different perspective on the problem, we can establish a benchmark for the cultural features, labs, and scale of Indigenous buildings.

### **Additional Questions:**

- What lot number are we taking up?
- Should there be separate gender restrooms?
- Are there specific cultural elements you would like to incorporate into the building?