

Energy Efficient Design

Duck Bay, Manitoba



Insulspan Structural Insulating Panels (SIPs) chosen as a solution for northern communities

Faced with supplying housing to remote northern communities, the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation (MHRC) looked for new technologies to provide low-income residents with higher quality housing without increasing costs. Following a housing forum with northern community organizations and a successful demonstration project, MHRC chose **Insulspan Structural Insulating Panels (SIPs)** as a solution for northern communities.

"We went with SIPs because we thought it would be faster and easier to assemble, improve energy efficiency and build a more durable home," said Dwayne Rewniak, Director of Land Development for MHRC.

MHRC built ten homes using the Insulspan SIP system in the northern Manitoba communities of Duck Bay, Camperville and Wabowden. For families living on low incomes in a cold climate, a home that minimizes heat loss is a necessity. According to Camperville Property Manager Ernie Urbanowski, the new homes built with the Insulspan SIP system had utility costs nearly 20 percent lower than conventionally built homes of similar size.

Homeowners also benefited from improved durability. The solid composition of SIPs makes them resistant to mold, rot, and other moisture related problems that commonly occur in cold climates.

One of the main advantages for Urbanowski was that the Insulspan ready-to-assemble building system arrived custom cut to the design of the home, making construction easier in remote locations. The design for these homes was prepared by Prairie Architects.

"The SIPs were easy to assemble, prefabricated and packaged for easy transport to the north. They can get into some pretty remote communities," said Urbanowski. "As far as I'm concerned, they are the answer for the north because they have a high insulating factor and the energy required to heat the homes is quite low."

All ten homes meet Manitoba's R2000 energy efficient building standards.