

Insulspan takes the LEED

One of Alberta's most stunning natural settings, Writing-On-Stone Provincial Park is located in Alberta's southeast quadrant, and features a rich landscape of grasslands, animals, birds, hoodoos and centuries old native stone carvings. It is an important area for First Nations' peoples, and hosts thousands of visitors each year. Alberta Infrastructure began to plan a new Visitors Centre for the area, but needed one that could withstand harsh climatic elements: strong winds, months of cold winter temperatures and very hot temperatures in summer. Together the Insulspan staff, together with the client worked with SHB Architects and Keller Construction to ensure excellence in insulation that would meet the LEED certification standard.

The Calgary Alberta-based architectural firm Sahara Hutchison Brzezinski (now Sahuri Architects) designed the Visitors Centre. The design called for a circular building that offered panoramic views which had cultural significance for Blackfoot Nation. The roof was comprised of a series of wedge-shaped panels fit together to form the circle.

The design called for key design requirements including superior insulation (R-Value), durability and ease of installation. The Insulspan SIP System was the architects' choice. There were a number of meetings leading up to that decision. "We seek the best performance materials for the project type," says architect and managing partner Tim Sahuri, "For Writing-on-Stone, we chose Insulspan SIPS. One of the reasons is we wanted the project to be LEED certified, and needed a higher insulation value with increased R-Value and reduced air leakage."



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He continues, "The Insulspan SIP System fit our requirements well for this project and we had a lot of flexibility in how the material could be used."

The meetings were also attended by Joanne Perdue, a consultant and LEED specialist. Insulspan supplied load span tables, which predicted strength for the walls, and recommended the type of LEED-approved sealant to use with the Insulspan SIP panels. The client and architects went on a site tour at the Insulspan plant in Delta B.C. to see firsthand how the product was created, and to learn more about its application.

The Writing-On-Stone project went to tender; Insulspan bid on the job and the quote was accepted. From there, Insulspan worked closely with Project Manager Joanne Foster at Keller Construction and provided an AutoCAD layout. Then SIPs were cut according to the client's drawing specifications. Together, the entire project team reviewed the plans and planned the electrical system. It was decided that the walls would have electrical wiring run through the middle of the SIPs panels, but the roof portion would have it on the outside for the roof portion to simplify the process.

At the site, Insulspan supplied an on site advisor for five days to train and ensure proper installation of the SIPs with the local crews. The Site Advisor then returned with the consulting engineer to inspect the entire job and offered a letter of review. "It was the optimum way of working," says Insulspan product manager Tony Mammone P.ENG. "It was large commercial project that was a success."