

Penticton home to Canada's greenest daycare

(Penticton BC – June 21, 2018) – Okanagan College Child Care Centre in Penticton has been recognized as one of Canada's greenest buildings. This latest accolade is another feather in the cap for Canada's first Passive House-certified commercial building.

Ottawa-based Canada Green Building Council has awarded Penticton's Little Learners Academy and its partners the 2018 Institutional (Small) Award. It's one of nine facilities nationwide to receive the Canadian Green Building Award, which recognizes excellence in the design and execution of Canadian buildings.

"Okanagan College is committed to being a leader in sustainability and to raising the bar for ourselves with each new facility we build," says Okanagan College President Jim Hamilton.

As a certified Passive House building, the 4,000-square-foot daycare facility has super-insulation, airtight construction and efficient mechanical systems to reduce energy consumption to less than 44 kWh/m² annually.

The jury, which included a panel of architects and design experts, commented: "As a structure designed to the rigorous Passive House standard, this building is notable for the beauty and simplicity of its environmental systems."

Penticton's Landform Architecture Ltd. was responsible for the design and Ritchie Custom Homes was the design builder.

"This is a very meaningful award for our firm, not only because it is national recognition for an Okanagan project, but because the goal of all our designs is to find a more sustainable way to live in our region," said Chris Allen, principal of Landform Architecture Ltd.

Nicholas Hill of Ritchie Contracting and Design Ltd. says it's projects like these that inspire new ways of working.

"To deliver Canada's first non-residential Passive House-certified building, the team had to find innovative and new ways of working together," said Hill. "The design-build process brings all the key players together at the start to ensure we have multi-disciplinary perspectives informing the entire process. This is how we were able to pull off the amazing feat of Canada's first non-residential passive building against a tight timeframe and budget."

Students within Okanagan College's Sustainable Construction Management program were also involved in the design, materials research, and vetting of design options. During construction, trades students were involved in carrying out parts of the work.

Commenting on the collaboration from the community to achieve this success, Mayor Andrew Jakubeit said, "Not only does this latest project provide the community with a much-needed daycare facility, but it is also a chance to showcase two signature buildings at Okanagan College pushing the envelope for green design and building practises. We are very fortunate to have a collaboration between Okanagan College, Landform Architecture, Richie Custom Homes and their partners to produce an outstanding project to exhibit the talent and innovation with have within our local design and construction industry."

Little Learners Academy was also recognized last year as being Canada's first Passive House-certified commercial building. It was also named a Silver Finalist in the 2018 Tommie Awards from the Canadian Home Builders Association in the Central Okanagan in the category of Best Environmental Initiative in Construction (residential or commercial).

Other partners involved included Aspect Engineers, Butler Engineering, Associated Engineering, BC Building Science, Chris Snyder and Paul Glen.

The full list of award winners will be published in the summer issue of Sustainable Architecture & Building or on its website, submagazine.com.

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