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Agway Metals Case Study | CHIEF ARANAZHI HIGH SCHOOL, GLENEVIS AB

For people of the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation, a new junior-senior high school is about more than education. It is also a centre for the community, which is approximately 90km northwest of Edmonton. Chief Aranzhi High School, which opened in fall 2021, is a place to celebrate and preserve the nation's culture.

“When education was introduced to our people through residential schools – it was done terribly,” said Chief Tony Alexis in a press release. “Today, we recognize the importance of education and we will continue to achieve more academically. The new school will facilitate learning, space for ceremony and room to expand our programming.”

The focus on culture and ceremony is evident throughout the building, including outside. The exterior of Chief Aranzhi High School is clad in six vibrant colours: Deep Grey, Heron Blue, Dark Red, Stone Grey, Gold and Charcoal. Steel was a natural choice because of its ease of installation,

minimal maintenance costs and the colour fastness of the panel system.

Project architects, BR2 Architecture, worked with the design committee including members of the Alexis people to select colours that were significant for the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation's culture and heritage.

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A portion of the design incorporated steel elements in the façade. The cladding, manufactured by Agway Metals, combines the company's HF-12 profile with 7/8" corrugated panels. HF-12 is Agway's most popular hidden fastener profile. The 12-inch wide panels install easily and deliver clean, sleek, contemporary lines, while the 7/8" corrugated panels have exposed fasteners and no hard lines, resulting in a highly consistent appearance and more organic overall look.





PROJECT

Chief Aranazhi High School

ARCHITECT

BR2 Architecture

ENGINEERS

Protostatix Engineering
Consultants Inc.

APPLICATOR

Marshall-Lee Construction

AGWAY PRODUCTS USED

HF-12

Colours: Deep Grey, Charcoal,
Stone Grey

7/8" Corrugated

Colours: Heron Blue, Dark Red,
Gold

“We also tried to... adjust the depth to give a little bit of texture and definition to the face of the building,” explains architect Shaun Visser. “We have some sloped elements of cladding and then underneath it we have some LED lights that shine down the face of the building, so it kind of splits up the face and gives us some depth and some lighting in the evening.”

The school sits on a sloped site that has views out to Lake Wakamne (Lac Ste Anne). The lake is an important spiritual centre, and the school is oriented to reflect the sacred connection to the land. It is also designed to allow students inside to connect with nature outside as much as possible.

Chief Aranazhi High School serves as a community centre as well, with an oversized gym, fitness room, large commercial kitchen, and ceremonial space.

“We meet a lot of different clients with different views on how education should be offered to the students. With that we... talk to clients about different ways of incorporating those teaching methods into the built design,” explains Visser. “The band had input at every phase so that they could get what they wanted and make sure that what we did reinforced all of their goals and visions for the school.”



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