



HIGH SCHOOL

# Tuugaalik High School

Naujaat, Nunavut, Canada



## New Construction/Addition

Entire school/campus building

### Parkin Architects Limited

20 James St., Ste. 200  
Ottawa, ON K2P 0T6  
www.parkin.ca  
Robert Boraks  
613/739-7700

### DESIGN TEAM

Robert Borks, Parkin Architects Limited, Project/  
Design Architect  
Justin Leclair, Parkin Architects Limited, Design/Job  
Captain  
Chantal Blatti, Parkin Architects Limited, Interior  
Designer  
Accutech Engineering Inc., Project Lead  
Accutech Engineering Inc., Mechanical, Electrical,  
Structural Engineers

### OWNER/CLIENT

Tuugaalik High School  
Naujaat, Nunavut, Canada  
Paul Mulak, Director, Capital Projects  
867/975-5414

### KEY STATS

Grades Served: 9-12  
Capacity: 210 students  
Size of Site: 2.7 acres  
Building Area: 32,000 gsf  
Space per Student: 152 sq. ft.  
Cost per Student: \$128,571.42 (includes northern  
cost premium)  
Square Foot Cost: \$843.75 (includes northern cost  
premium)  
Project Cost: \$27,000,000 (includes northern cost  
premium)  
Completion Date: August 2016  
Sustainability Rating Status: Designed to Sustainable  
Principles

PHOTOGRAPHY: GERRY KOPELOW PHOTOGRAPHICS INC.

Tuugaalik High School lies directly on the Arctic Circle in the hamlet of Naujaat, in northern Canada. Opened in August 2016, the school serves a primarily Inuk student population of 210. The 32,000 sq. ft. facility includes 10 teaching classrooms, two trades classrooms, a gym, daycare, and a large communal space called a "Kiva." It has been in only the last two

or three generations that the Inuit have felt the effects associated with the transformation of a nomadic culture to a sedentary, village culture. Lack of employment opportunities, substandard housing, and difficult living conditions all contribute to a situation that is reflected in low academic attendance and graduation rates.

In addressing education needs of the stu-







dents, the architect was influenced by Inuit *Gaujımaıuqangit* (IQ)—Inuk guidelines that are meant to inform all aspects of daily life. Elements of IQ, which informed the design included: respect, being open and welcoming, community service, consensus building, resourcefulness, and environment-caring. Traditional methods of Inuit learning were based on teaching survival skills through informal, community interaction. In addition to providing learning spaces associated with southern pedagogy, the Tuugaalik design provides spaces for more traditional activities such as fur preparation and carving.

The school also includes a large interstitial space between classrooms and gym for informal learning. By mimicking the sloping terrain, the Kiva celebrates the ascending southern



sun, and connections to the Arctic Ocean. The space is meant to be welcoming to community elders who, it is hoped, will feel welcomed to enter the school and share their traditional knowledge in an informal, communal space.

Vibrant colors, which are symbolic of the Arctic's brief spring, help to dispel negative attributes associated with institutions. Specialized building techniques were employed to help protect the permafrost and help keep snow away from building facades.