

# časqanelə elementary school

18071

## client

School District No. 42 (Maple Ridge)  
Flavia Coughlan  
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## location

Maple Ridge, BC

## size

4657 m<sup>2</sup>

## value

\$16 million

## status

Complete September 2019

## key features

One-storey design

21st century learning principles

Learning pods

Off-grid learning environment

Access to exterior learning spaces

First Nations engagement

LEED Gold/energy efficient  
and sustainable

Comprehensive life-cycle approach

Adaptable

Fosters connection



## embracing progressive design and learning elements

collaboration with stakeholder groups to create advanced learning practices & effective multipurpose use.

## leed gold standard

časqanelə Elementary School is a \$16 million elementary school in Maple Ridge, BC, with a capacity for 600 students. The project is currently under construction. The school will target LEED Gold Certification.

## one-storey design accommodates indoor pods and outdoor learning

Maple Ridge is a progressive school district that embraces 21st century learning principles. The one-storey school design, unusual for schools with tight space constraints, includes 'pods' organized in communities to provide a more intimate learning experience for students. The pods follow the Da Vinci configuration – a mix of learning disciplines within each grouping. The learning pods also have direct access to exterior learning spaces. Students can have their classes inside and then



walk outside, straight from their pods, to benefit from outdoor learning. For example, outside the building is an attractive riparian area that fosters a connection to nature. This innovative design reflects the client's priority for outdoor education and collaborative learning.

### **extensive stakeholder engagement**

Station One does not begin a project with a pre-conceived design. Instead, it invites and welcomes input from a number of stakeholders. Over two days, 12 meetings were held on a wide range of topics, to allow Station One to obtain detailed information and feedback. The efforts of this multi-disciplinary team will enable the school to reflect the visions and priorities of 12 diverse stakeholder groups, including First Nations, sustainability specialists, teachers, and librarians.

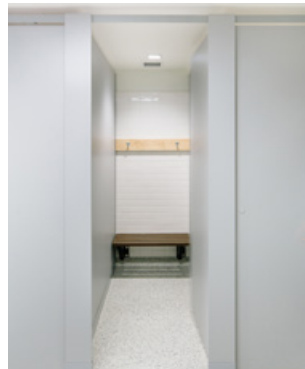
Two of the stakeholder groups – the sustainability team and the outdoor teachers – plan to take one of the learning pods and turn it into an off-the-grid area of the school. This pod will have solar power, composting and water recycling incorporated in its design, representing a progressive choice that offers students a learning environment that is completely off-grid.

### **a collaborative approach to addressing school and community needs**

The school will be used as a community centre after hours and on the weekends. In response, a large multipurpose learning commons was designed that will function also as a community hall. Other design features include spaces for: multiple kitchens, childcare areas, child play areas, early learning programs, and administrative use.

### **influential first nations engagement**

The Katzie First Nations stakeholder group conveyed to Station One that it wanted the school, which is on traditional land, to reflect the language, history and culture of its people. This approach will enable all students to gain insight into the rich history and purpose of the land, and



those who lived on it before the school was built. In response, Station One has included various exciting ways to incorporate First Nations language and art throughout the school as a means to tell this story.

### **creating excitement in the community**

Station One created a means to generate enthusiasm about the



### **thinking ahead**

A key design consideration involves the school's life-cycle approach. An energy model was developed early in the design stages that calculates payback over time. It allowed the client to determine where to focus its spending – for example, on mechanical or other systems. Also, Station One met with the maintenance team in the project's early phases, to ensure that the building is easy to maintain and that it will continue to look attractive and perform efficiently in the future.

project in the Maple Ridge community – even during its early design stages. Information was used from the funding report, which Station One developed, to create a detailed rendering that pictured people, cars, trees and other elements of the project. This approach allowed the community to easily understand the nature of the school and the role it would play in the area.