

DATE	PROJECT
June 10, 2025	Roof replacement - St. Paul Church in Baker Lake, Nunavut
SUBMITTED TO	ADDRESS
St. Patrick Parish	P.O. Box 99, 1039 - 14th Avenue, Sidney, Nebraska 69162
SUBMITTED BY	ADDRESS
Esk-Omi Missions	P.O. Box 159, St. Norbert, Manitoba, CANADA R3V 1L6

I. PROJECT LOCATION

The community of Baker Lake is located in the territory of Nunavut, Canada. The Catholic mission in Baker Lake was established in 1927 and is part of the Diocese of Churchill-Hudson Bay.

II. STATEMENT OF NEED

The current church in Baker Lake, St. Paul Church, was built in 1957 (with a small addition built in the mid-1990s). The structure comprises the church itself, which can hold up to 100 people, as well as a small residence for the parish priest. Due to the severe shortage of priests in the North, there is no longer a resident priest in the community. Instead, a priest will fly into the community on a regular basis and stay at the residence in the church.

The structure's roof had deteriorated due to the adverse effects over time of the very harsh Arctic weather (extreme cold, high winds and moisture damage due to freeze/thaw cycles). Temperatures during the long winter can go as low as -50° C (-58° F) and wind speeds during winter storms can reach up to 115 kph (70 mph) or more. The roof, fascia and soffit had been repaired several times over the years in order to protect the church from the effects of the unforgiving climate. Unfortunately, this did not work and the entire roof had to be replaced and the fascia/soffit repaired to prevent any further damage to the structure and the church's ceiling.

III. WORK CARRIED OUT

The project involved a 3-man crew under the supervision of Bishop Anthony Krotki. The members of the crew, who were not from the community of Baker Lake but rather flown in from Winnipeg, had in the past worked on several projects for the diocese and hence were accustomed to working under Arctic weather conditions. Even though the residence at the church is quite small, the crew stayed there with Bishop Krotki because of the limited amount of hotel rooms in the community and because of the exorbitant cost of these hotel rooms (on the order of \$469.00 CDN per person per night).

The work carried out by the crew included:

1. removal of the old roofing material and underlayment;
2. repairs to the damaged parts of the original plywood sheathing;
3. installation of a 2nd layer of 3/4" plywood sheathing over the 1st layer to strengthen the roof;
4. installation of new ice/water shield underlayment;
5. installation of the corrugated steel roofing;
6. repairs to the damaged part of the fascia and soffit;
7. installation of new aluminum fascia and soffit covering;
8. replacement of damaged ceiling tiles in the church;
9. repainting of one of the walls in the church; and
10. repainting the bell tower.

