

# WARM EDGE

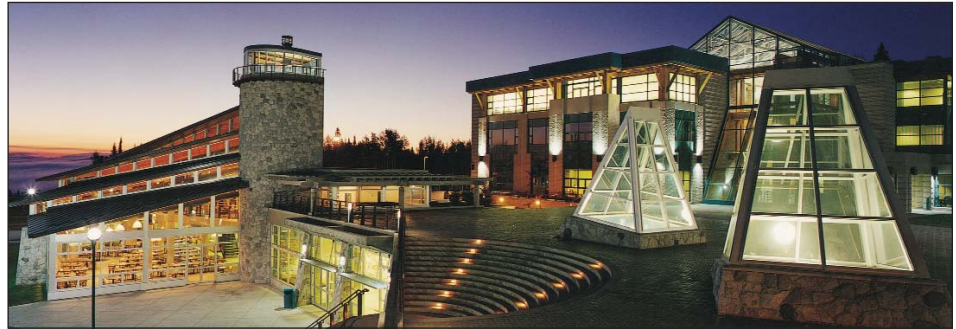
## DIGEST

### “Outrageous” Fenestration Spec Pays Off for British Columbia University

One of the newest universities in Canada is the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) in Prince George, B.C.—one of the country's most northerly collegiate

locations. It's also one of the best designed.

Constructed in 1992-94, its initial five buildings broke new ground on many fronts. As might be expected with innovative design, there was considerable frustration on the part of component suppliers in many areas. Perhaps the biggest frustration point was an early 1993



The campus of the University of Northern British Columbia is the site of one of Edgetech's largest commercial installations.

and window assemblies they believed could meet the set of criteria covering thermal and condensation resistance, water penetration, wind load and air infiltration to very exacting standards.

Assembly proposals needed to allow for expansion and contraction consistent with surface temperatures ranging from  $-32^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $70^{\circ}\text{C}$ . An overall U-Value of .313 was required and had to be tested at a minimum  $-32^{\circ}\text{C}$  weather-side air temperature and a  $20^{\circ}\text{C}$  room temperature.

Condensation resistance testing, which was new in those days, was also required. These tests had to be performed with window interiors and window coverings

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UNBC's Geoffrey R. Weller Library

curtain wall and window specification that is hailed today as “outrageous” by some of those involved with its fulfillment.

Contractors who wished to bid first had to design, build and test the curtain wall



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## British Columbia University - one of Edgetech's Largest Commercial Installations

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in place and with an assumed interior humidity between 25-35%.

This is just the kind of job for which flexible-foam Super Spacer® was created. This fact was not lost on UNBC's coordinating architects, Chernoff Thompson Architects of Vancouver, who approved the specification of "a desiccant-filled foam spacer by Edgetech Canada."

Today, the UNBC five-building, 560,000 sq. ft. core-complex contains 100,000 sq. ft. of curtain wall, 20,000 sq. ft. of regular windows and nearly 19 miles of Super Spacer.

Calgary structural glass manufacturer, Ferguson Corporation, employing AFGD Edmonton sealed units, did the job with their EAP-100 HP curtain wall package. According to Ferguson's web site, the system "was a good match for the high thermal requirements—and allowed for savings in the mechanical and building heating requirements."

"So far, there has not been a single seal failure. Nobody notices any condensation.



We couldn't be happier," commented the university's facilities manager, John Crooks.

With the right spacing system, maybe the final designs weren't so outrageous after all.

The university's five-building core complex sports some 19 miles of Super Spacer.

### Correction from Warm Edge Digest 6.1

Sierra Pacific General Sales Manager Rod Preston was misquoted. His statement regarding their company's U-Value should have read, "Super Spacer's warm edge technology gives our windows a U-Value comparable to our competitors' windows with argon gas." We apologize for the error.

 **Edgetech**

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Published By:

**Edgetech IG Inc.**  
800 Cochran Avenue  
Cambridge, OH 43725  
Tel. 1-740-439-2338  
Fax. 1-740-439-0121

(Toll free in North America)

**1-866-TRUEWARM**

[www.superspacer.com](http://www.superspacer.com)