



COMMUNITY UPDATE

Macdonald Block Reconstruction Project

Since the last Community Update, we are setting our sights on 2022 and another year of construction completed on the Macdonald Block Reconstruction Project.

Recent Construction Activity

You may have started to notice some physical changes to the project's exterior as we remove the tarping and scaffolding from the Ferguson and Mowat towers and transition this to the Hearst and Hepburn towers, including new windows.



Photo: New windows in Ferguson

Fun fact: To date, we have installed over 1,200 new windows between the Mowat and Ferguson towers!



Photo: Mud mats protect heritage elements beneath the scaffolding.

Did you know? The tarp and scaffolding enclosure provides a safe and secure environment for workers performing reconstruction work on the limestone exterior.

We have also progressed on further upgrades to the Hearst tower's new mechanical electrical penthouse.

Based on the logistics of the equipment and materials that needed to be placed on the roof, and through the use of a mobile crane, we were able to conduct this work within the site, without the need for road closures.

Minimizing Disruptions

We remain committed to minimizing the impact of construction on the surrounding community while

advancing this important historical project for the Government of Ontario.

In collaboration with our partners, we strive to sequence disruptive work during daytime hours wherever possible. That said, some sensitive activities, which require separation from the workforce for safety purposes, need to be staged during an evening shift and limited to work that takes place within the building interior as much as possible.

We carefully plan and implement strategies that balance construction deliverables with the needs of our community. Some additional measures to minimize disruptions to date include:

- Light and sound barriers.
- Selecting the highest quality and quietest equipment possible.
- Creating enclosures to muffle the sounds of generators.
- Pointing equipment with sound inward to the project.

Recent and ongoing work involves the movement and disposal of demolition materials. This is a periodic but necessary part of the project.

A portion of this work has been completed for the Hepburn tower,

and we are targeting completion of similar work in other areas of the complex as soon as Summer 2022.

In January, we will begin enabling works to preserve the Mowat tower's exterior colonnade ceiling. Given the proximity of residences in this area of the complex, some noise may be anticipated.

Winter is Coming

As we overhaul the complex's core building systems, crews are working in structures that are not currently supported by a central heating and ventilation system.

For the health and safety of our workforce, we are required to continuously maintain heat to the buildings via the use of portable heaters. The units that power the heaters are located on the building exterior as they need to draw fresh air. We are cognizant that the heaters may produce some minimal noise levels.

We appreciate the local community's understanding of the need to provide a safe work environment for all workers.

As always, work is continuing in accordance with all applicable health and safety protocols including COVID-19.

Happy Holidays!

The project will observe the statutory holidays at the end of December. On behalf of the MBR project team we would like to wish our readers a healthy and safe holiday season and a happy new year! We thank you for your patience as we complete these upgrades. We will keep you updated on future activities.

More Information

If you have questions related to site construction activities, please contact: MBRproject@pcl.com. Information about the Macdonald Block Reconstruction project is available on: [Infrastructure Ontario's website](#).

For questions or comments related to the overall Queen's Park Reconstruction Project, involving the reconstruction of the Macdonald Block and the rehabilitation of the Whitney Block, please contact: QPRP@infrastructureontario.ca.

About the Project

The Macdonald Block Complex is the administrative hub of Ontario government operations. It consists of five buildings: four office towers connected by a two-storey podium.

Completed in 1971, the Macdonald Block Complex has never undergone a major renovation. The reconstruction project will update all core building systems, including electrical, water, cooling and heating, which have reached the end of their useful life and must be replaced. Office accommodations will also be enhanced for modern accessibility standards.

Each building in the complex is being taken back to its original building core, remediated and rebuilt using modern technologies, systems and materials while preserving the integrity of its many heritage features.

The newly reconstructed complex will meet current building, health, safety, and accessibility standards and will accommodate significantly more employees through more efficient use of this government-owned office space.

Construction is expected to be substantially complete in the spring of 2024, with staged occupancy beginning soon after that.

