

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Macdonald Block Reconstruction Project

December 2023

Since the last Community Update, issued November 2023, we are pleased to share 2023 highlights from the Macdonald Block Reconstruction Project.

A Year in Review

The Macdonald Block Reconstruction (MBR) Project continues to progress through important reconstruction and heritage preservation milestones aimed at modernizing the Macdonald Block Complex, preserving the integrity of the buildings and their original design.

Throughout the year, crews made significant progress on the exterior and interior of the buildings. Some of the 2023 highlights include:

- Improved energy efficiency, including installing new mechanical, electrical, heating, and cooling systems using modern technologies, systems and materials.
- Dismantling of the temporary covered walkway on Wellesley Street West between Queen's Park Crescent East and Bay Street.
- Dismantling of all exterior scaffolding from the Hearst and Hepburn buildings. Today, both have been fully removed as most exterior work is complete (right).
- Demolition and rebuilding of the parking ramp and loading docks located alongside Grosvenor Street.



Pictured: Before (left): Scaffolding and tarp on the Hearst building. After (right): Scaffolding and tarp removed.

Seasonal Working Hours

In collaboration with our partners, we strive to schedule disruptive work during daytime hours wherever possible.

We thank the community for their patience as we undertake careful planning to minimize the impact of construction on the neighbourhood with your safety top of mind.

Reconstruction work will continue throughout the holiday period, maintaining standard project hours, however work will pause during **the statutory holidays** on Monday, December 25, Tuesday December 26, 2023, and Monday, January 1, 2024.

Safety Focus

The team is committed to the highest safety standards for MBR workers and the community is the top priority for all project partners.

The MBR Project construction team has performed more than four million hours of work without lost-time injury (LTI) as of November 2023.

This significant achievement reflects the quality of work being carried out every day.

Did you know?

Crews installed nearly 6,000 new, energy-efficient windows, while protecting the heritage aspects of the limestone exterior.

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](#).

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 is updating 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.

