

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Macdonald Block Reconstruction Project

MARCH 2023

Since the last Community Update, issued December 2022, we are pleased to share recent highlights of the Macdonald Block Reconstruction Project that brings us another step closer to construction completion.

Recent Construction Activity

The Macdonald Block Reconstruction (MBR) Project continues to progress through important reconstruction and heritage preservation to modernize the complex while preserving the integrity of the building and its original design.

Some of this work includes mechanical and electrical updates, framing, drywall and finishes throughout the interior of the building.

The team has also focused on elevator modernization in the Hearst building.



Pictured: Windows in the process of being reinstalled in the Hepburn Tower.

Enhancing Energy Efficiency

Installing new, energy efficient windows while protecting the heritage aspects of the limestone exterior involves very detailed and intricate work.

Prior to each window being replaced, each area is remediated and inspected. Necessary stone repairs are conducted and validated before the area is prepped and the new windows installed. The entire process of removal through to installation of the windows takes about a month.

As for the exterior of the building, the scaffolding and crisp, white tarps that continue to wrap the Hearst and Hepburn towers are enabling crews to execute limestone restoration. This work will continue throughout the summer months.

Furthermore, one of the integral upgrades that will enhance the energy efficiency of the complex is the new HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) system that will heat and cool the complex.

Recently, crews received delivery of the new chiller (or air conditioning) system, which will circulate and regulate cool air temperature throughout the complex.

Safety

The importance of safety and a skillfully managed worksite is always critical, and it branches beyond physical safety.

Safety on a worksite also includes achieving one's top performance and productivity, a streamlined workforce, uninterrupted reconstruction activity, and so much more.

The MBR Project is no different. Fengate PCL Progress Partners, the Ministry of Infrastructure, Infrastructure Ontario, and all project partners prioritize the safety of workers and the public at all times.

In fact, the MBR Project construction team holds a remarkable safety record of over three million worker hours without a lost-time injury (LTI) as of January 2023.

This significant achievement reflects the quality of work that is being carried out every day, along with commitment to the highest safety standards.

Highlights

- 3,142 site safety orientations
- 685 safety inspections

Collectively, this results in the overall safety of employees, partners and the neighbouring community.

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 reconstruction of the Macdonald Block Complex or 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 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. Construction is scheduled to be substantially complete in the spring of 2024, with staged occupancy beginning soon after that.

