

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Macdonald Block Reconstruction Project

NOVEMBER 2023

Since the last quarterly Community Update, issued June 2023, we are pleased to share recent highlights of the Macdonald Block Reconstruction Project.

Recent Construction Activity

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



Pictured: 'Punch window' installation is completed.

This summer, the team completed the installation of almost 6,000 new 'punch windows' (pictured above). Punch windows are an architectural feature of individual rectangular or square windows installed separately from each other, in-keeping with the buildings heritage style and modern energy efficiency requirements.

With window installation complete, crews dismantled the remaining exterior scaffolding from the Hearst and Hepburn towers.

The team safely and efficiently dismantled the temporary covered walkway on Wellesley Street West between Queen's Park Crescent East and Bay Street, reopening the below sidewalk and bike lane (pictured below) to the community sooner than planned.

Crews also loaded materials and new mechanical equipment onto the rooftops of the Hearst and Ferguson towers by crane, safely and without interruption.



Pictured: The Hearst building before the scaffolding and covered walkway were removed (left) and after its removal (right).

Working Hours

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

Energy Efficiency

In addition to new windows, important work is taking place to improve the buildings energy efficiency, including installing new mechanical, electrical, heating, and cooling systems, all of which are critical to the efficient performance of the restored buildings.

Exterior Restoration

Heritage restoration, parking ramp/loading dock upgrades and landscaping work continues around the grounds of the buildings.

Did you know?

Crews are installing more than 8,000 heritage limestone slabs on the podium level. Each slab weighs almost 600 pounds – equivalent to the weight of a vending machine or an adult, male grizzly bear.

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.

