

# COMMUNITY UPDATE

## Macdonald Block Reconstruction Project

MARCH 2024

Since the December 2023 Community Update, 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.

### Heritage Restoration

As part of the heritage restoration work, the project team has recreated the original, heritage-replica mosaic tiling on the ceilings of the outdoor colonnades, which are a series of column structures and walkways. There is a colonnade outside each of the four buildings that make up the Macdonald Block Complex.

The project team also started laying new stone walkways underneath the outdoor colonnades at the Hearst and Ferguson towers.

The same work will take place at the Mowat and Hepburn towers.

### Other Exterior Reconstruction Work

Landscaping work surrounding the outside of the Macdonald Block Complex continued throughout the winter months. Crews planted trees which match the original landscaping design of the Complex when it was first constructed. The trees are deciduous, meaning they shed their leaves in the fall (pictured below).



**Picture:** Newly planted trees outside the Macdonald Block Complex.

The renewed green roof at podium level (the central, two-storey structure connecting the towers) has been completed and it includes greenery such as resilient grass species that are drought-resistant.

Heritage restoration, parking ramp and loading dock upgrades also continued.

## Upcoming Construction Work

In the coming weeks, crews will be conducting a crane lift to hoist equipment onto the roof of the Hearst tower. A community Construction Notice will be issued with more details in advance of the work.

## 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 continue to undertake careful planning to minimize the impact of construction on the neighbourhood with your safety top of mind.

## More Information

If you have questions related to construction activities, please contact: [MBRproject@pcl.com](mailto: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 had 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.

