



COMMUNITY UPDATE

Macdonald Block Reconstruction Project

Overview

Work on site is progressing well.

As noted in our last Community Update in [June 2020](#), COVID-19 continues to challenge us in adapting the way we work. The safety and well-being of our workforce and their families, our partners and the community remain our highest priority as we revitalize the Macdonald Block Complex.

For more information about how our design-builder PCL Construction is responding to COVID-19 and keeping job sites and offices safe throughout the pandemic, please reference their website www.pcl.com.



Image: Bay Street fountain protection

Progress Snapshot

- Civil works on the south and north east side of the site are wrapping up this month. This work to upgrade the storm sewer system included the design, construction and maintenance of the physical and naturally built environment and supporting infrastructure.
- The scaffolding and tarp system erected on the Mowat and Ferguson Towers is complete and approved for access. This enables workers to safely access the building exterior when completing heritage restoration of the envelope, while being protected from the weather.



Image: Ferguson Tower envelope scaffolding

Ongoing project tasks

- Over the next 20 months, construction activities will continue to focus on interior demolition, abatement, restoration and heritage preservation works on the Ferguson and Mowat Towers.
- As the scaffolding comes down on these buildings, you will see a shift of focus and materials moving to the Hearst and Hepburn buildings.
- Re-roofing of the two-storey Macdonald Block podium including preparations to support a new green roof.

Interesting facts

Since we began construction, we have:

- Logged over 424,520 hours without a lost time injury. 260,000 of these hours were focused on abatement and demolition.
- Utilized 325,000 square feet of tarp to encase the two towers to protect the environment, workers and public.
- Removed 3,800 tonnes (600 bins) of waste and recycling.

Upcoming construction work

- Earthworks and waterproofing on the west side of the property between Macdonald Block and Whitney Block is required to refresh the lifespan of the parking garage below this area. In planning for this work, PCL strategically selected the use of smaller equipment with rubber tracks to minimize noise for the surrounding community.
- The process of preparing the colonnade area in the Hearst building for abatement has begun. Please be advised that the workers carrying out the abatement work are utilizing full personal protective equipment including Tyvek suits and full-face masks. PCL has tarped off this area while the work is being completed.

More information

If you have any 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, an initiative that involves the reconstruction of the Macdonald Block Complex 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. The complex consists of five buildings: four office towers connected by a 2-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 will be 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.

