



# COMMUNITY UPDATE

## Macdonald Block Reconstruction Project

### UPCOMING STREET CLOSURES

Wellesley St. West will be closed from Queen's Park Crescent East to Bay St. on three consecutive weekends to permit construction works on the Ferguson tower:

- from 7 p.m. on Friday, February 21, to 11 p.m. on Sunday, February 23;
- from 7 p.m. on Friday, February 28, to 11 p.m. on Sunday, March 1; and
- from 7 p.m. on Friday, March 6, to 11 p.m. on Sunday, March 8.

This will result in lane closures, including bike lanes and sidewalks. Paid duty Toronto Police officers will be controlling the traffic flow to allow only local vehicular traffic along Wellesley St. West. They will also control pedestrian flow, allowing local residents to use the north sidewalk.

These closures are required to permit a 500-tonne hydraulic crane to be placed on the roadway to remove cooling towers and debris and then hoist equipment on the roof of the

Ferguson building over the three consecutive weekends. The shutdown is being staged in this manner as Wellesley is not permitted to be shut down during the week, and the work is not able to be completed over one weekend alone.

We thank you for your patience during these necessary lane closures.

### Progress Snapshot

**Pathway:** The Surrey Trail has been closed to ensure pedestrian safety during required excavation and repair work. The east entrance to the Whitney Block has been converted to an emergency exit door. This door will remain as an emergency exit only (not an entrance) until the Surrey Trail re-opens in Spring 2023.

**Window coverings:** Within the Mowat and Ferguson Block towers, demolition and abatement work continues to progress from the upper floors down. We are required to keep the lights in the towers on during construction in order to complete an hourly fire watch program.

Recognizing the potential impact to the surrounding neighbourhood, our team has closed all remaining operational window coverings across the tower floors. The onsite team is actively reminded to ensure that, if they open the blinds to allow natural light during daylight working hours in their work area, to ensure they are closed at the end of the shift.

**Heritage and art protection ongoing:** Further to the information in our earlier Community Updates regarding the vital artwork and heritage components of Macdonald Block, an artwork protective enclosure climate control unit has been installed and is being remotely monitored.



*Image: Heritage protection work*

**Additional exterior updates:** The installation of scaffolding has begun from the ground to roof levels of the Mowat and Ferguson towers to provide a safe and secure environment for workers performing reconstruction work on the exterior of the towers.

Planter wall protections continue to progress in areas ahead of construction works. The removal of the limestone paving stones and limestone step tread is ongoing. Each paver is lifted, assessed and palleted. Work will continue to progress around the site until all pavers are removed.

### More information

The Macdonald Block Reconstruction project delivery team is committed to maintaining a positive and mutually beneficial relationship with our neighbours and all stakeholders.

Should you have any questions or concerns throughout the life of the construction project, please contact us at [MBRproject@pcl.com](mailto:MBRproject@pcl.com) or 647-373-9355.

These community updates, and more information about the project, can be found at:

[www.infrastructureontario.ca/Macdonald-Block-Reconstruction-Project](http://www.infrastructureontario.ca/Macdonald-Block-Reconstruction-Project).

### Background

Following a competitive procurement process, Infrastructure Ontario (IO) and the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services (MGCS) awarded the Macdonald Block Reconstruction (MBR) contract to Fengate PCL Progress Partners (FP3) in August 2019.

The delivery team is committed to being a good neighbour and prioritizes minimizing the impact of construction on the communities in which it builds.

Construction notices and updates will be proactively shared with the community as the project progresses.

**We are committed to keeping you informed.**

### 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.

