



COMMUNITY UPDATE

Macdonald Block Reconstruction Project

Overview

Since our last Community Update in February 2020, COVID-19 has rapidly changed the landscape of how we work. We find ourselves in very challenging times across our communities, including in the construction industry. Moving through the pandemic, the safety and well-being of our workforce and their families, our partners and the community remain our highest priority.

Project downtime

To support the government's efforts to fight COVID-19, work on site was temporarily paused. During this time:

- Work to safely demobilize the site focused on securing demolition/abatement zones and exterior scaffolding.
- Work which could progress virtually and offsite continued.
- A significantly reduced work force was maintained at the site in order to perform critical maintenance and safety activities.

Remobilization with enhanced focus on health and safety

In response to [the Province lifting essential workplace limits on construction effective Tuesday, May 19, 2020](#), we have been focused on the safe remobilization of the teams working on Macdonald Block and adjusting operational procedures to align with guidelines set by government authorities to help contain the spread of COVID-19.

PCL Construction has implemented enhanced screening measures to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. All employees and tradespeople accessing the site require screening prior to entering those locations. Screening is voluntary but any person who refuses screening will be denied access to the work location.

We continue to evaluate our operational safety measures and standards on an ongoing basis while following evolving government guidelines.

For more information about PCL Construction's response to COVID-19 and how they are keeping sites safe

throughout the pandemic, please reference:

<http://www.pcl.com/Pages/Coronavirus-COVID-19-Update.aspx>

The project team has logged over 255,382 hours worked to date without a lost time injury.

Upcoming construction work

- A tarp system will be added to scaffolding on the Ferguson and Mowat towers to provide weather protection for those workzones.
- Restoration/preservation of exterior heritage stone on all buildings will begin.
- Re-roofing of the podium will continue.
- Abatement in the two towers and all levels of the podium continues.
- In July, we will begin waterproofing on the west side of the project between Macdonald Block and Whitney Block.

- Throughout the summer, we will be completing civil works on the south and northeast elevations of the project footprint. This work includes the design, construction and maintenance of the physical and naturally built environment and supporting infrastructure.

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



Image: Mowat Tower envelope restoration scaffolding

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.

