



Building Envelope Council Ottawa Region

Greening Government: Lessons Learned from the Centre Block Rehabilitation Program

The fight against climate change is a key priority for the Government of Canada. A major focus of this effort is the greening of government operations and the impact that the large federal real property portfolio can have in supporting the shift to a low-carbon economy. As one of the Government's largest public infrastructure projects, the renewal of the Parliamentary Precinct has a significant symbolic role to play in ensuring that the home of Canada's Parliament showcases this strong commitment to sustainable development and green government.

Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) is working with CENTRUS and PCL-EllisDon to rehabilitate Canada's iconic parliament building, Centre Block. This heritage rehabilitation project is the largest of its kind undertaken in Canada and one of the largest globally. The project includes site rehabilitation, conservation restoration and modernization of Centre Block, and the design and construction of a new, underground, Parliament Welcome Centre. Such an undertaking is an unprecedented opportunity to modernize Centre Block and the Parliament Hill landscape, integrating contemporary expectations of accessibility, wellness, safety, and sustainability, balanced against heritage conservation.

This session will explore the Parliamentary Precinct's campus sustainability vision and the application of that vision in the context of the rehabilitation of the historic Centre Block building. The presentation will provide an overview of Centre Block existing conditions; approach, methodology and analysis; key strategies; heritage implications; and targets and objectives. In addition to providing insight into how the Centre Block project is responding to sustainability objectives, the session will also explore how the Centre Block's evolving design is providing useful feedback for other PSPC projects and future iterations of sustainability plans and policies.

Sophia Wong

Sophia Wong leads the Environmental Sustainability Office within PSPC's Science and Parliamentary Infrastructure Branch (SPIB), whose mandate is to integrate sustainability into the Parliamentary Precinct's planning, operations, and projects. Prior to joining government, she worked for 15 years as a consultant in the areas of energy management, sustainability strategy development, and life cycle assessment. She holds a B.Sc. in Environmental Engineering from the University of Guelph and is a Certified Energy Manager.

Martin Sing

Martin Sing is the National Market Lead – Energy and Sustainability, Property and Buildings for WSP Canada. He has more than 25 years experience in the AEC industry, the last half dedicated to sustainability. Over the past decade, he has played a vital role in advising and guiding the Government of Canada on a long-term strategy for sustainability and a roadmap to carbon neutrality for the federal real property portfolio. As the Team Lead, Sustainability and Energy for CENTRUS, a joint venture of WSP and HOK, he was instrumental in developing the sustainability and carbon neutral vision for the Centre Block Rehabilitation project. And in his new role as National Market Lead, Martin is responsible for leading WSP Canada's Property & Buildings decarbonization and net-zero efforts.



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