

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority New Administrative Office Building Backgrounder

Project rationale

The number of staff working at Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) has grown considerably since its main office at 5 Shoreham Drive in Toronto was constructed in the early 1970s. The original office was built to accommodate 80 staff. As TRCA grew over the years, staff worked out of various satellite offices and TRCA eventually leased additional office space at 101 Exchange Avenue in Vaughan to serve as an interim head office to accommodate over 300 staff. However, TRCA's long-term goal was to consolidate staff working in multiple facilities to one central location to reduce travel time between TRCA offices, and allow resource and staff sharing. After an extensive analysis, it was determined that a newly constructed office building on the TRCA-owned land at 5 Shoreham Drive was the most cost-effective solution to meet the needs of the organization.

In June 2016 TRCA's Board of Directors approved the construction of a new administrative office building at 5 Shoreham Drive in Toronto. In early 2017 all six of TRCA's participating municipalities approved the project along with the allocation of \$60 million in new and existing capital funding. The Province of Ontario also approved \$3.5 million in funding for the project. With support for the project and funding in place, TRCA proceeded with the design and municipal approvals for the new administrative building. That process is now almost complete, and construction of the new administrative building is about to begin. Project completion and occupancy are planned for the summer of 2021.

The new administrative building will allow TRCA to provide optimal customer service and support; achieve accommodation standards for staff comparable to our regional and municipal partners with a positive influence on staff retention; and ensure that the office can accommodate growth to meet future staff and program requirements.

A Benchmark for Sustainable Office Building Design

TRCA is committed to applying best practices in green building and sustainable design. The new administrative building will set the standard for sustainable commercial building design and showcase appropriate development within a watershed. The 8,100 square metre, four-storey office building with a mass timber structural system will accommodate over 400 TRCA staff members and meet a number of environmental standards including the Toronto Green Standard Tier II certification, the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum certification and the WELL Silver certification. The project is also participating in the Canadian Green Building Council's Zero Carbon Building Pilot Program.

About TRCA

With more than 60 years of experience, TRCA is one of 36 Conservation Authorities in Ontario, created to safeguard and enhance the health and well-being of watershed communities through the protection and restoration of the natural environment and the ecological services the environment provides. TRCA manages a



vast jurisdiction comprised of nine watersheds in the Toronto region, including Carruthers Creek, Don River, Duffins Creek, Etobicoke Creek, Highland Creek, Humber River, Mimico Creek, Petticoat Creek and Rouge River, plus their collective Lake Ontario shorelines.

TRCA's mission is to protect, conserve and restore natural resources and develop resilient communities through education, the application of science, community engagement, service excellence and collaboration with partners. TRCA works with municipalities to manage environmental monitoring, flood risk management, source water protection, greenspace management and more to achieve its vision for The Living City, where human settlement can flourish forever as part of nature's beauty and diversity.