

Library and Archives Canada's Gatineau 2 Project



Americas

Government accommodation

Library and Archives Canada's Gatineau 2 Project involves the design, construction, financing, facility maintenance, and lifecycle of a new archival facility behind – and physically connected to – LAC's existing Preservation Centre.

The new Preservation Storage Facility is a specialized, flexible, and sustainable building, with objectives aligned to meet the Government of Canada's priorities to invest in sustainable federal infrastructure and Canadian culture.

Project facts

Location Gatineau, Quebec, Canada	Client Library and Archives Canada	Value (NPV) C\$330 million
Consortium Plenary Properties Gatineau (PPG)	Plenary Americas' role Lead developer Lead equity investor Financial advisor	Builder PCL Constructors Eastern Inc.
Architect B+H Architects	Services ENGIE Services Inc.	Financial close date April 2019
Completion date May 2022	Contract terms 33 years, DBFM	Project website https://www.preservation-gatineau.com/

CCPPP Case Study
[Gatineau 2 Project: Future
Forward Design to Protect
Canada's Past](#)

At the leading edge of technology, the new state-of-the-art Preservation Storage Facility is the world's largest that is equipped with an automated storage and retrieval system for archival collections. The Facility provides 21,500 cubic metres, or the equivalent of about 8.5 Olympic swimming pools, of collection storage capacity in two highly controlled environments across six vaults.

The Preservation Storage Facility is also the first Net Zero Carbon archival centre in the Americas. In addition to the new facility works, Plenary Properties Gatineau will be responsible for facility maintenance, lifecycle, energy retrofitting, and shelving optimization at the existing Preservation Centre.



Design features

In order to protect the invaluable collection materials from flooding, the vaults are located well above grade, directly above program spaces and staff areas on the ground floor.

The risk of water damage is further mitigated by the “buffer zone” surrounding the concrete vaults in the interior on all sides, as well as with roof drainage that draws rainwater away from the vault ceilings to prevent water accumulation.



Inside the vaults, strict requirements for temperature and humidity serve to maximize the storage life of the collection. These environmental set points are achieved through individually dedicated mechanical systems, with backup capacity to provide continuous support in the event of a temporary outage.

Innovations

The Gatineau 2 Project also includes shelving optimization and energy efficiency initiatives to maximize storage space and reduce the environmental impact of LAC's operations.

Greenhouse gas emissions in the pre-existing Preservation Centre, which will be connected to the new facility by a pedestrian bridge, will be reduced by 80%.

In keeping with the government's efforts to promote environmental stewardship, additional sustainable performance considerations have been integrated into the Project Agreement.

The refit of specific storage spaces supports LAC's commitment to reducing its physical footprint and greening its activities by using efficient systems and adapted shelving structures.

Local economic impacts

The construction project was a significant boost to the local economies of Gatineau and the broader National Capital Region (NCR) by directly and indirectly creating and supporting over a thousand person years of employment during construction.

At the peak of construction, between 150 and 200 workers were on site daily. The majority of the labour force was sourced from the NCR.