



THE VISITOR WELCOME CENTRE (VWC) - OTTAWA, ON



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The Visitor Welcome Centre (VWC) is the first new major addition on Parliament Hill since the Peace Tower and part of a twenty-year rehabilitation of Canada's most significant heritage site. The VWC as part of the Government of Canada's Long Term Vision and Plan (LTVP) serves as the first point of entry for

visitors to the West Block and the Interim House of Commons Chamber, the seat of the Government of Canada and National Historic Site. IBI Group in association with Moriyama & Teshima Architects designed this new space located between the West Block and the Centre Block dedicated to enriching the visitor experience. As a heritage landscape, the new facility had to be constructed underground. The Centre Block, situated at a higher elevation than the other buildings and expressed in the stone Vaux Wall, presented an opportunity for an entrance to this subterranean facility.

While responding to the many unique challenges of the visitor experience functional program, heritage, and security, the VWC design team further emphasized the importance of sustainability. Achieving the many sustainable goals, including LEED Gold certification, was a challenge, not only due to the program, security and heritage considerations, but also due to the subterranean nature and the necessity to connect to a legacy district energy system currently undergoing modernization to improve energy efficiency.

The design team included expert sustainability specialists, Morrison Hershfield, who worked very closely with the CaGBC and targeted every LEED point available given the project constraints. The result is a project with a strong emphasis on local, Canadian materials, exceptional indoor air quality and durability of construction. From an energy perspective, the team invested in the building envelope and building controls enabling future goals towards carbon neutrality.

Design excellence, an adaptive response to the requirements outlined in the LTVP, the associated review boards, and stakeholders, preserved the integrity of the heritage landscape, its openness of public green space and transitions to a clean, fluid, light-filled interior space. Achieving LEED Gold for the Visitor Welcome Centre brings sustainability to the forefront of Parliament Hill.



LEED Scorecard - GOLD

Sustainable Sites	17 / 26
Water Efficiency	8 / 10
Energy & Atmosphere	11 / 35
Materials & Resources	4 / 14
Indoor Environmental Qualit	12 / 15
Innovation in Operations	4 / 6
Regional Priority	4 / 4
TOTAL	60/110