



NCC Bird-Safe Design Statement

**New Campus Development for
The Ottawa Hospital
Phase 4: Main Hospital Project
Ottawa, Ontario**

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VERSION NUMBER AND DATE

Version 01, 2025/01/08

Version 02, 2025/01/28

Version 03, 2025/06/05

Version 04, 2025/09/19

Version 05, 2026/01/12

The Bird-Safe Design Strategy for the Hospital is based on the NCC Bird-Safe Design Guidelines, and additionally CSA A460:19, Bird-Friendly Building Design, and the City of Ottawa Bird Safe Design Guidelines.

A number of design strategies are implemented on the project to help protect and mitigate the impact on the natural wildlife. Particular care and attention are given with consideration to the project's proximity to key properties and habitats, including the Central Experimental Farm, Dow's Lake and the Dominion Arboretum. Key elements of the project are placed under particular scrutiny during the design, and are constantly reviewed against the guidelines and requirements to ensure both compliance and an appropriate level of response given the complexity of the project.

1.0 BUILDING FORM AND MATERIALITY

Due to the nature of the building form, mitigating the risk of areas for birds to nest or roost is a challenge requiring a careful balance between the functional program and limiting the impact on the natural wildlife. Ledges or platforms where there is shelter for birds are avoided, including areas such as canopies and entrances. Remaining areas of potential risk may require monitoring as part of the management of the facility, and protective measures deployed at a later stage.

The building form utilizes extensive glazing, particularly driven by a requirement for natural light into key programmatic functional spaces, such as patient rooms, staff facilities or public areas. Many well-documented studies identify that large expanses of undistinguished glass or other reflective material can be particularly detrimental. However, a number of design decisions are implemented to mitigate this impact.

- The “fade façade” assists in breaking up a singular, large expanse of glass, providing a sort of overall pattern across large expanses on the east and west of each tower
- Visual markers are applied to the glazing in accordance with CSA A460:19:
 - Bird-safe treatment applied at 16m above grade and 4m above roofs on all sides of the building
 - These heights are continuously checked and adjusted throughout the design stages as the building and site design progress and evolve
 - Care has been taken with the design to avoid corners with glazing on both sides, where the risk of bird collisions can be higher
 - The use of electrochromic glazing on large areas of the glass allows the glazing to be darkened, resulting in less light leakage at high levels out of the building during evening hours

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Figure 1.0-1: The Red line shows a typical identifier of 16m above grade for bird-safe treatment (Extract from elevation drawings)

2.0 LANDSCAPE AND LIGHTING

The landscape design takes an approach to promote and enhance local wildlife, to help mitigate the impact on their habitat by providing potential new habitats for them. As part of this approach, careful consideration is given to both the design of the site (both in terms of soft and hard landscape) as well as vegetation selection. Additionally, the inclusion of elements such as larger, mature trees assists in the overall strategy of mitigating the negative characteristics of the large glazing expanses on the building.

In tandem with this, the lighting selection will ensure minimal glare and a suitable cutoff to provide an appropriate selection for the wildlife.