

OPL-LAC Joint Facility targeting Net Zero Carbon

<https://dsai.ca/news/opl-lac-joint-facility-targeting-net-zero-carbon/>

The Government of Canada will provide funding for the Ottawa Public Library-**Library and Archives Canada Joint Facility** to achieve net-zero carbon.

Designed by Diamond Schmitt, in association with KWC Architects, the joint facility's design draws from Ottawa's rich history and natural beauty with a dynamic form reminiscent of the nearby Ottawa River; the stone and wood exterior reflect the adjacent escarpment and surrounding greenspace on the western edge of downtown. The windows, top floors and rooftop offer unparalleled views of the Ottawa River and Gatineau Hills in Quebec.

An official announcement was made on February 8, 2021, by the Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Canadian Heritage, and the Honourable Catherine McKenna, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, along with City of Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson and Councillor Matthew Luloff, Chair of the Ottawa Public Library Board.

Prior to these changes, our building's design already complied with the LEED Gold standard, an independent certification that takes into account ecological land and water use, energy efficiency, and sustainable materials. Funding from the federal government will allow for:

- upgrades to the building's envelope and insulation;
- triple-glazed windows;
- solar panels on the rooftop and embedded in the facade;
- additional sustainable materials; and
- an indoor green wall.

These investments in a net-zero carbon facility will result in a 30% reduction in greenhouse gas intensity. This represents the equivalent of approximately 170 fewer metric tons of CO₂ produced per year, or taking 37 passenger vehicles off the road.

“There is great value in modern and greener cultural spaces such as the one we are building in the heart of our capital. Not only will this building showcase our collective history and heritage, it will also point the way to a more sustainable future where clean growth is the rule.” –*The Hon. Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Canadian Heritage*

Read the full press release [here](#).