

# THE IRONWORKER

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*Happy Holidays!*



THE IRONWORKERS AND WALTERS GROUP BRING  
**EXCELLENCE**  
to **CANADA**

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# IRONWORKERS AND THE WALTERS GROUP

SUBMITTED BY WALTERS GROUP

## Toronto skyline changes at 160 Front Street West

**A** premiere address in Toronto's Financial District, 160 Front Street West is a new 48-story, 750-foot tall, 12,000-ton office tower on downtown Toronto's northeast corner of Front Street and Simcoe Street. The new tower will maintain the façade of the existing heritage building. The two primary tenants of the 1.2 million-square-foot development are TD Bank and the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan, the owners of Cadillac Fairview.

The building will forever alter the Toronto skyline with a distinct shape and form sculpted in response to extensive environmental analysis. The main axis of the building is oriented parallel to the direction of the site's prevailing winds, minimizing its resistance to the wind's lateral loads. The resulting design is tapered at the top and the bottom, assisting the structure when resisting wind. The design also minimizes the effect on the pedestrian realm and creates a spacious respite to the compressed neighboring sidewalks.

Designed by Smith — Gill and B+H Architects, the tower incorporates the latest smart building technology. This building also has environmental sustainability at the heart of its design to achieve LEED® Platinum and WELL Building Standard® certifications.

Walters Group was selected by PCL as the design-assist and build partner on this project. The scope of work involved the supply and erection of approximately 12,000 tons of structural steel and 1.07 million square feet of metal deck for the main tower and podium. Additionally, Walters is

160 Front Street framework.



**“As opposed to a typical tower, the unique shape of 160 Front Street resulted in each floor being slightly different and therefore required detailed attention and a high level of skill from the ironworkers,”**

said Jamie Hebb, senior project manager, Walters Group.



fabricating and erecting structural steel for the complex curved AESS (architecturally exposed structural steel) 100-foot crown.

The tower erection was masterfully and skillfully achieved by Local 721 (Toronto, Ontario), including ironworkers from Local 700 (Windsor, Ontario) and Local 736 (Hamilton, Ontario). The project peaked at 45 ironworkers on site. Local 721 members on the job included site superintendents Tom Mesley and Chuck Mesley, general foremen Pat Barton and Eric Fantinel and surveyor Jonas Szymanski.

Situated in the heart of downtown, directly across from Union Station, the project required finding creative solutions to a challenging logistical environment.

The ironworkers demonstrated their ability to work safely and efficiently on-site with a demanding safety program.

Walters Group is a family-owned steel construction company that designs, fabricates, and constructs commercial and industrial projects throughout North America. Regardless of the industry, size, or complexity, Walters Group always brings the same passion and commitment to every project they take on.



Brandon Hill, Local 736 (Hamilton, Ontario), lining up the next beam to connect.

## Ottawa Light Rail Transit (OLRT) Stage 2

**T**he Ottawa Light Rail Transit (OLRT) Stage 2 Confederation Line extension will add approximately 27 km of new rail and 16 new stations to the O-Train network. The LRT extensions were expected to take about 14,000 cars off the road, which will help relieve traffic congestion during peak hours and reduce carbon emissions by 155 tons over 25 years. Once complete, the new stations will bring 70% of Ottawa residents within 5 km of rail transit.

This contract consists of approximately 3,000 tons of detailing, fabrication, and installation of structural steel, open web steel joists (OWSJ) and metal decking for 16 new stations.

The Stage 2 Confederation Line East and West Extensions represented a significant advancement of commuter travel in the Greater Ottawa Area. Funded by all three levels of government, the East Extension is expected to be completed in 2024, with the West Extension to achieve substantial completion in 2025.

Walters supplied and installed structural steel, OWSJ and metal decks for 16 stations, including the concourse, service rooms, bus operator buildings and platform canopies. The scope consists of five stations for the East Line expansion and 11 stations for the West Line expansion.

The site erection will be completed by Local 765 (Ottawa, Ontario), varying from

four to 20 workers on various sites. Supervision was assured by site superintendents George Mansfield and Oke Maracle, members of Local 721 (Toronto, Ontario) and general foreman Brad Raddatz (Local 765).

Scheduling work at multiple sites and working alongside busy highways and congested city streets are challenging, but the ironworkers from Local 765 successfully dealt with the situation safely and efficiently.

"I am grateful for having this experienced office and field team on the OLRT project; the challenges we're facing are intricate, and it takes patience and expertise to navigate them," said Daniel Matei, project manager, Walters Group.







Metal decking being installed.

## Ontario ironworkers team up with Walters Group to erect Casino Woodbine expansion

**T**he Casino Woodbine expansion, developed by Ontario Gaming GTA LP in Etobicoke, Ontario, is situated on 33 acres within the Woodbine master plan. The multi-use development includes a 5,000-seat multipurpose performance venue and retail facilities integrated seamlessly with existing operations. Designed by Climans Green Liang Architects Inc. (CGL Architects) in association with Chris Dikeakos Architects, the landmark entertainment

destination will attract new local, regional and international visitors.

Walters was awarded the supply, connection design, detailing, fabrication and installation of 3,300 tons of structural steel and 177,500 square feet of metal deck for the new performance venue. The project was on an extremely tight schedule due to the site being ready for steel when Walters was initially awarded the contract. By leveraging their Model to Truck™

process, Walters could fast track steel fabrication to serve two cranes for an on-time erection start date. The site erection was above an underground parking garage on an elevated concrete slab. It required a 150-foot ceiling constraint due to Toronto Pearson Airport restrictions, creating some crane planning challenges.

The site erection was completed by Local 721 (Toronto, Ontario), including ironworkers from Local 700 (Windsor,





**“The Woodbine theatre involved complex geometry with many cantilevered floors and seating. The theatre also features an open venue space with large spanning roof trusses. The team carefully sequenced the erection of the trusses using tandem lifts and shoring towers. The ironworkers, led by Bill Riley, carefully execute the erection while working within limits imposed on them by the underground parking garage and flight path above,”** said Joshua Paetkau, project manager, Walters Group.



Ryan Green and Tayler Lessard; connector team from Local 721 at Woodbine Casino in Etobicoke, Ontario.

Ontario) and Local 736 (Hamilton, Ontario). The project peaked at 35 ironworkers on-site with Local 700 members site superintendent Bill Riley, general foreman Randy Dare and surveyor Frank Maisonville.

The new development will have robust connectivity between the gaming building and the broader development, creating a cohesive and exciting public experience.

The ironworkers worked safely within job parameters. Walters Field Services

also installed the metal deck at the bottom chord of the trusses and roof level and all cantilever seating steel under the previously erected roof.

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Serving two cranes for an on-time erection start date, Walters used their Model to Truck™ process to fast track steel fabrication.



## Local 725 and Walters Group constructing BMO Convention Centre Expansion

**L**ocated in Calgary, Alberta, the BMO Convention Centre expansion will be the largest conference facility in Western Canada and the second largest in Canada. The development, at three levels high, will include approximately 565,000 square feet of new facility space attached to the southeast end of the existing convention centre.

Calgary Municipal Land Corporation (CMLC) and the Calgary Stampede selected a design team comprised of three architectural firms: Stantec, Populous and S2 Architecture. This facility was designed entirely around the user experience. An exterior public plaza offers a place to enjoy food and outdoor concert experiences

and activates a year-round Stampede experience. A sculpted design roof over the plaza welcomes visitors up a grand outdoor staircase into the second-floor internal core.

Walters supplied and installed approximately 11,000 tons of structural steel and 58,000 m<sup>2</sup> metal deck and feature stairs.





**“Due to the large number of trusses and tight site landscape, our field team implemented an off-site assembly yard to pre-build trusses so they would arrive fully built and ready for the hook. Despite some challenges along the way, the team managed the entire operation like a well-oiled machine,”** said Jamie Hebb, senior project manager, Walters Group.



Kaylee Young, Paul Carrol and Bob Shoemaker, Local 725.

The steel construction began in November 2021. Careful consideration to available work windows was given during site planning, knowing crews would be required to work around the 2022 Calgary Stampede festivities. Located in the downtown core, the convention centre had limited space for material storage requiring all deliveries to be carefully timed and coordinated, ensuring an efficient execution.

The site erection was completed by Local 725 (Calgary, Alberta). The project peaked at 65 ironworkers on-site with site superintendent Glen Dobbs, Local 725; general foremen Kyle London, Local 725, Michael Boudreau, Local 725 and Dwayne Eby, Local 736 (Hamilton, Ontario).

During peak schedule, four cranes were in operation and two shifts were required to meet a demanding work schedule during a workforce shortage. The ironworkers from Local 725 safely and efficiently erected dozens of 130-foot and 100-ton floor and roof trusses. The job also occurred during the Calgary Stampede.

The BMO Centre is transforming into a world-class convention centre capable of hosting international conferences, tradeshows and exhibitions.