

Conventional Wisdom



The main entrance to the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

Toronto is located in the eastern province of Ontario and is widely recognized as one of the world's leading financial centers. It is a vital Canadian hub for a broad spectrum of commerce that includes transportation, aerospace, telecommunications, software, publishing and medical industries.

As an international business and tourism center, Toronto plays host to visitors from around the world and the Metro Toronto Convention Centre serves as the showcase for a variety of conferences, expositions and trade shows. The Centre has approximately 700 events with 2 million visitors annually and is within walking distance of the Toronto waterfront. It is served by more than 12,000 nearby hotel rooms, fine shopping, restaurants and attractions.

A sizable advantage

Constructed in 1984, the Metro Toronto Convention Centre is large enough to accommodate virtually any gathering. It encompasses more than 2 million square feet of exhibit and meeting space, includes 64 meeting rooms, a world-class 1,330-seat theater and two spacious ballrooms. Up to 40,000 visitors attend a single conference, meeting or trade show at the venue, which has hosted a number of notable events, including the G7 conference in 1988 and the G-20 summit in 2010. Recently, the Metro Toronto Convention Centre was host to Greenbuild 2011, an annual international conference and exposition conducted by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). Its purpose is to educate attendees on building sustainably, while showcasing the latest in products and services designed to demonstrate that going green can grow businesses.

The escalators serve visitors as they travel between the three floors in each of two buildings that comprise the Centre.





As many as 40,000 visitors attend a single event at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. Schindler services all of the escalators and is reconfiguring the direction flow within the facility.

Sustainable solutions

The Metro Toronto Convention Centre also stands at the forefront of sustainable meetings by offering exhibitors the option of securing electrical power generated from natural, sustainable resources. In addition, zero-waste meetings are offered that successfully avoid adding to existing landfills by preventing, eliminating or recycling virtually everything the events generate. The Centre also provides conference managers with the tools to calculate their event's carbon footprint along with suggestions on how it can be minimized. Further environmental impact savings are found in offering alternatives to the use of paper through wireless access to conference and show information materials. These and other award-winning programs are examples of the type of progressive thinking that consistently earns the Metro Toronto Convention Centre some of the highest rankings of all conference and convention venues in North America.

Improving the flow

Recently, the Centre began a program of adding 14 energy-efficient Schindler 9300® escalators, with 10 installations completed to date. According to Vince Quattrociocchi, vice

president of operations, "The objectives were to add a number of escalators to handle our increased traffic because attendance at events has been growing steadily. We are also replacing some of the older escalators and improving the directional flow of traffic through the facility. The original configuration of most of the escalators required passengers to backtrack in order to reach another escalator traveling in the same direction. As we replace the older escalators with the Schindler units, their engineers are repositioning the configurations to move traffic in a linear or straight-line direction, thus speeding flow through the buildings. It's a significant improvement."

Quattrociocchi continued, "Of course, all of this installation work has to be done in a fully operational, very busy convention center. We try to schedule as much work as possible during slower holiday periods, and the Schindler teams have been great about getting in and getting work done within very tight periods. Schindler is responsible for maintenance of all of the 38 escalators and 17 elevators. They provide us with a quality product at a good price point, expert installation and first-rate maintenance of a diverse portfolio of mobility systems." ■