



700 West Georgia Street, Vancouver

# TD Tower

celebrating **50** years

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## Celebrating a Vancouver trailblazer

On behalf of my Vancouver City Council colleagues, I want to express my best wishes on the 50th Anniversary of the TD Tower to all those who have worked or continue to work in this landmark Vancouver building.

From historic law firms to iconic radio stations to the bank itself, over the past 50 years, the TD Tower has been home to so many businesses and people that have contributed to shaping Vancouver into the vibrant, world-class city that it is today.

As Mayor, I appreciate how the TD Tower has supported people and our community these last five decades. The tower blazed a trail as one of the first office spaces of its kind in Downtown Vancouver, becoming the foundation of the connected vibrant community known as CF Pacific Centre - spanning three city blocks, and making our city a better place by generating sustainable economic activity and by serving as a foundational commercial landmark of our downtown core.

Over the years, we have seen Downtown Vancouver grow and evolve around the building not only as more businesses moved their operations to our city, but also the

amenities, restaurants, cultural attractions, and public transportation options that have followed. We appreciate the TD Tower and its tenants for helping pave the way.

Office towers are built with concrete and steel, but their foundation is people. It's the people who engineered and built the structure. It's the workers, including thousands of newcomers who have had the opportunity to work and support their families and community because of this building, and make Vancouver their home. They have come from different countries from around the world and contributed to making Vancouver rich in culture and a truly global city.

It's also today's building management through Cadillac Fairview, building staff, and the tenants of the TD Tower. You are all part of what makes Vancouver truly one of the best cities in the world in which to grow a thriving business. Thank you for all your success these last 50 years, and best wishes for continued success over the next 50 years.

Sincerely,

Mayor Kennedy Stewart

# Marking a milestone, together



As a landmark defining the crest of Georgia Street, the TD Tower has stood witness to – and has been an integral part of – the maturity of Downtown Vancouver, as the city moved from a branch office commodities town to thriving centre of international innovation and financial productivity. The strategies charted, the deals cut, the money raised, and the problems solved here have set future generations up for success. This is a legacy of growth and productivity, one that continues to this day.

**Lou Ficocelli**

*VP, Office Leasing,  
Cadillac Fairview*



TD Tower is really centre ice for Downtown Vancouver. For 50 years, a vibrant community has been built around the tower and within this community, relationships have been developed, friendships have endured, and businesses have flourished – providing an economic engine to our city and province. TD Tower has been and will continue to be an iconic building that lends itself to the city's ever-changing skyline and provide a centre compass, representing the continual growth of the city of Vancouver as a world-class city.

**Lillian Tummonds**

*VP, Office Operations,  
Cadillac Fairview*



“This iconic tower adorned with our TD brand is proudly our home. It's the house of TD, our beachhead, and the place in and from which we have been honoured to have the opportunity to help make a difference in the lives of British Columbian families, businesses and institutions for the past 50 years.”

**Jim Kershaw**

*CPA CA, FCPA FCA, LL.B, Pacific Region Head,  
TD Wealth, Private Wealth Management*

# About TD Tower

Known as “the Black Tower” when it was initially built, TD Tower has made an unmistakable mark on Vancouver. Today, it’s one of the city’s most iconic office towers, and part of seven other buildings and a shopping centre that make up the Pacific Centre complex, spanning three blocks in the heart of the city.

When it was completed in 1972, TD Tower was the first modern high rise in Downtown Vancouver, kickstarting a development boom that has shaped the fabric of the city’s core.

A testament to the 30-storey building’s role in the city is the multitude of prestigious long-term tenants who have remained since its opening. Fifty years later, the building has maintained notoriety and a strong legacy. Those who walk into the doors of 700 West Georgia today will find a newly renovated space with a sleek, spacious design.

Situated at the corner of Granville and West Georgia, TD Tower is an iconic part of central Downtown Vancouver. Tenants of the building enjoy the benefits of being accessible by SkyTrain and Canada Line, as well as having a direct connection with CF Pacific Centre, a premier shopping destination. This, in tandem with being located near the Vancouver Art Gallery, restaurants, recreation space and hotels, puts the building at the heart of a thriving city.



# Timeline: 50 years of TD Tower

## 1969



**Construction begins on the TD Tower**

At **127 metres** (or 30 storeys) tall, it was the tallest building in Vancouver at the time, and the first modern office building in the city.

The building's design was the work of Argentine American architect **César Pelli**, known for designing some of the tallest and most striking skyscrapers in urban centres around the world, including corporate skyscrapers like the Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur and One Canada Square in London.

## 1971

**In October, TD opens its first bank branch in the tower**



## 1972

**The building's first occupants move in**

The first tenant in **January 1972** was the law firm of McLaughlin, Holburn & Beaudin on the 16th floor.

The firm (now named Alexander Holburn Beaudin + Lang LLP) has remained a tenant since opening and currently occupies the topmost floors.

That same year, TD Bank and law firm Farris LLP also opened their doors in the building.

Since then, a number of tenants have joined them, including Cansure, the Downtown Vancouver Optometry Clinic, and more.

## 1971-1973



**CF Pacific Centre is built**

The first block of the shopping centre was built in 1971 with 17 stores.

In 1973, a new section (designed by architect César Pelli) was built to be the home of department store chain Eaton's. It was later redeveloped to house retailer Sears before being transformed again in 2015 to become Nordstrom.

Today, CF Pacific Centre is the largest shopping centre in Downtown Vancouver, with about 100 stores.

## 1975

**701 West Georgia opens**

The smaller twin of TD Tower was constructed across the street on the corner of Georgia and Granville.



## 1976

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### The Four Seasons opens

The luxury hotel opened its doors, welcoming guests from around the world to Downtown Vancouver.

## 1980-1990

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### The movement of Vancouver Art Gallery

In the **1980s**, the Vancouver Art Gallery moved to its present location across from TD Tower. The gallery is recognized as one of North America's most respected and innovative visual arts institutions.

During this period, TD Bank also opened its flagship branch in TD Tower, further cementing its presence in the heart of the city.

## 1990-2000

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### TD Tower's neighbourhood continues to change

In **1996**, TD Tower became home to Corus Radio Vancouver. Its broadcast stations include News Talk 980 CKNW, CFOX, and Rock 101.

Throughout the 1990s, the city evolves. Both the Vancouver Public Library building, and the Rogers Arena (previously General Motors Place) opened in **1995**.

## 2000-2010

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### Retail and transit developments take shape

In **August 2009**, the Canada Line – part of the SkyTrain network – opened, including a stop close to TD Tower. This new public transit line created an important link between Downtown Vancouver, the city's airport, and neighbouring Richmond. Today, many of TD Tower's tenants use the line regularly.



## 2010-2021

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### Vancouver celebrates big moments

**725 Granville** (TD Tower's neighbour and original home to Eaton's) was redeveloped.

Vancouver hosts the **2010 Olympic Winter Olympics** and **2010 Winter Paralympics**.

On **April 6, 2016**, the City of Vancouver marks its 130th anniversary.

And in **March 2019**, Vancouver was ranked as one of the best cities in the world for quality of life in consultancy Mercer's Quality of Living survey.

## 2022

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### TD Tower celebrates its 50-year history

Cadillac Fairview celebrates **TD Tower's 50-year history**, as well as the completion of renovations to the building's main lobby.



# TD Bank: A tower for the community and for customers

Just as it has been for many people in Vancouver, TD Tower has been a fixture in Connie Delli Santi's life for decades.

"I started with the bank literally right out of high school as a summer job and then never left," says Connie, who kicked off her career with TD Bank in 1983 and has been working at TD Tower since 1989.

Even before working in the building – where she's now a Commercial Services Officer – it was in the background of her downtown experiences, including weekend shopping trips with her mom. "TD has always had a big presence in the downtown core," Connie says.

"Today, the black tower remains a focal point in the city's core, and the features that surround it make it a special place to work," she says. "From being steps away from the Vancouver Art Gallery, well-known hotels, and retailers, and the SkyTrain, the building is surrounded by some of city's best landmarks and amenities. The building's location also puts it in the midst of thriving film, TV, music, and sport industries, making it an exciting place to work," Connie notes.

That prime location has helped Connie and her colleagues collect countless unique memories, including watching the Olympic torch being carried through downtown in 2010. But for her, those aren't the only reasons her workplace stands out.

"It's been iconic because it's connected TD to the community around us," she says. Children's charity events, jazz festivals and more have all brought TD employees and other tower tenants together and have drawn in customers and passersby – a testament to its place in the community.

"Cadillac Fairview has done a great job of connecting the different tenants through some of the summer and spring activities," adds Kevin Hamaoka, Senior Vice President of business banking, who has spent most of his 17 years with TD working in the tower.

"Whether it be the accounting firms or the law firms that are located in the building, some of those end up being your closest peers and end up also being some of your greatest service providers for all the different businesses that we offer."



"This is a milestone because my whole career has revolved around working for TD and working downtown at the tower. It's served me beautifully. It's made me happy."

**Connie Delli Santi**

*Commercial Services Officer*

For Kevin, the building is also a testament to TD's role in its customers' lives. "We've got all our businesses, from retail to wealth, to national accounts and our corporate banking," he says. "Our corporate and community teams are there as well. So, it's really where everybody gathers from TD. Having everybody located together aligns with our 'one TD' strategy and being able to bring the whole bank to our customers."

Certainly, in the decades TD Bank has had its home in the tower, its business has evolved. For example, just a few short years after the tower was completed in 1972, TD unveiled its first Automated Banking Machines. Since then, the bank has brought countless other innovations and services to market in B.C., across Canada and globally.

"Our business is certainly growing quite a bit," Kevin says. "As the business is growing, we've grown our footprint within the building. Having such a large building has allowed us to grow over the years."

Today, Kevin, Connie and many others at TD are looking to the future, knowing they have an incredible foundation to keep building on. "This is a milestone because my whole career has revolved around working for TD and working downtown at the tower," Connie says. "It's served me beautifully. It's made me happy."



"Our corporate and community teams are there as well. So, it's really where everybody gathers from TD. Having everybody located together aligns with our 'one TD' strategy and being able to bring the whole bank to our customers."

**Kevin Hamaoka**

*Sr. Vice President, Business Banking*



# FARRIS

BARRISTERS • SOLICITORS

## A centrepiece of British Columbia law



**Jeffrey Kay**  
*Managing Partner*

Farris LLP has made a name for itself as one of Western Canada's top law firms. With deep roots in British Columbia (B.C.), the firm has earned a well-deserved reputation for its dedication to Vancouver and the province.

"This firm has been a centerpiece of Vancouver law for over 100 years," says Jeffrey Kay, Managing Partner at Farris. Its history dates to 1903, when J.W. de Beque Farris arrived in B.C. and forged a career as Vancouver's first city prosecutor.

With its rich history in the city, it's no surprise that the firm has made its Vancouver home in TD Tower. "It's been a centerpiece of the cityscape for 50 years. You come into the heart of downtown and TD Tower is there," Jeffrey says.

Farris' leadership set up offices in the tower in 1972, making it one of the original tenants. "The proximity to the courthouse and being in the centre of the city, no doubt, would have been influential in the decision to come here," says Jeffrey, who joined Farris in early 1981. "The spectacular views would have been very alluring to any lawyer wanting to look out the window when they were practicing law," he adds, noting that those views remain one of the best parts of his workplace.

Today, the full-service legal firm occupies four floors in TD Tower, where its team operates from a beautiful space of private offices and boardrooms steeped in legal tradition.

Along with priding itself as being on the forefront of legal innovation, the firm is also dedicated to an environment in which families, businesses and the community can prosper. Its Vancouver offices are a central part of bringing that to life, especially when it comes to professional development of lawyers and building an inclusive workplace.

"As a lawyer, it's all about your ability to connect with and work with people," Jeffrey says. "Being with the people that you work with is very important to the development of a young lawyer's skill set."

Unquestionably, being in the centre of Vancouver has always been a benefit for the firm to thrive. Clients and employees alike find the location easy to get to and perfect for entertaining, running errands during the day, and enjoying the best of what Vancouver has to offer. "I remember during the Olympics, being in the office and being in the heart of the city was quite exciting," Jeffrey recalls.

But for him, it doesn't come down to one memory, but countless elevator rides, client meetings and moments with colleagues and friends. TD Tower is the constant in a 42-year career that has seen the practice of law and city evolve.

“ I've worked my entire life as a lawyer in this building. And I've always felt that I was working in the heart of the city, with an office that had the best views of the city – and really felt quite privileged and fortunate to be doing so. ”

# Where trust, balance, and teamwork thrive



**Bruno De Vita, Q.C.**  
*Partner*

Alexander Holburn's space in the TD Tower isn't simply a place to work. Its office space is the embodiment of the company's values of trust, balance, and teamwork.

"We pride ourselves on a culture of collaboration and openness – a culture that's rooted in the spirit of camaraderie and generosity," says Bruno De Vita, Q.C., a partner who has been with the law firm since 1985 and who has served as managing partner twice over his tenure. "The designers of the space designed it to capitalize on the view, so there's this openness and brightness which we think reflects the culture of our firm," he says. "I think clients see that as well."

Today, Alexander Holburn occupies the 27th, 28th and part of the 29th floor, and each floor offers employees and visitors impressive views of English Bay, Stanley Park and all the way out to Point Grey.

The firm's office space plays a big role in delivering on that promise. Its location in the heart of the city and proximity to key services has made it a convenient spot for employees and clients alike.

"We like to say working here is part of a good life," says Bruno. "In other words, work isn't just where you go to make money. Work is where you go to be part of something special and to have something more at the workplace than just the work itself."

The firm's roots go back to 1973, when it was formed through the merger of

Robson Alexander + Guest and McLachlan Holburn + Beaudin. The newly combined firm made TD Tower its home – making it one of the original tenants.

Since then, the firm has evolved to become one of the leading law firms in the city. Perhaps best known for its strength acting on behalf of insurers and their insureds, it also provides a wide range of litigation, dispute resolution and business law services to clients throughout Canada and abroad. Its team, which has grown to more than 100 lawyers across two offices, are trusted legal advisors to regional, national, and international clients across a wide variety of industries.

Alexander Holburn is a cornerstone of Vancouver's downtown core – much like the building it occupies. Creating a lasting, positive impact on the community is as much a measure of its success as its business performance. The firm supports a diverse range of charitable and sustainability initiatives, as well as mentorship and networking programs for young lawyers new to the practice of law. These initiatives give firm members a chance to volunteer and make a difference to Vancouver's fabric, beyond their commercial impact alone.

For Bruno, marking the building's 50th anniversary is also a testament to Alexander Holburn's longevity. "I'm particularly proud having been with the firm now for 37 years," he says. "It's been a very rewarding experience for me, in large part because of the people that I've met here. They're the reason I continue to come to the office every day."



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This publication was a collaboration between TD and Cadillac Fairview to celebrate TD Tower's 50 years of history in Vancouver.

[www.cadillacfairview.com](http://www.cadillacfairview.com)

