

2. Physical Security

Security zones and areas

The departmental security system divides the Lester B. Pearson Building into a number of security zones for the purposes of controlling access and to protect all government assets against loss, damage, theft and compromise.

Public area

The main floor of the building is open to the public. In this public area is located the departmental library, cafeteria and the Royal Bank of Canada. Also included in the public area are the auditorium, main conference room and lobby area.

Sensitive area

All four towers are designated as Sensitive Areas and access to these towers is controlled by members of the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires. Access to the Sensitive Areas is restricted to persons with the appropriate building passes or to **escorted visitors**.

Security zone

Within the Sensitive Areas there are Security Zones which have restricted access to authorized persons only. Access to some, but not all, Security Zones is further controlled by the use of combination-lock doors and barriers.

Restricted access signs

Within the Sensitive Areas, prominently displayed signs such as "Security Zone" are used to indicate these highly secure and/or sensitive areas. Additional signs "Authorized Personnel Only" may be used. Only persons on work-related business are allowed to enter these areas.

Reception area (Tower A)

Floor 9 of Tower A is a reception area where departmental functions are hosted for visitors. Visitors must be appropriately escorted to and from the floor through the Tower A Sensitive Area; they must not be allowed unescorted access to other floors of Tower A.