



FROM THE GROUND UP

SUPPORTING TORONTO'S VERTICAL VILLAGES



action
FOR SUSTAINABLE
DESIGN



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ISAAC WORK
Director
Council on Tall Buildings and
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ABOUT THE COUNCIL



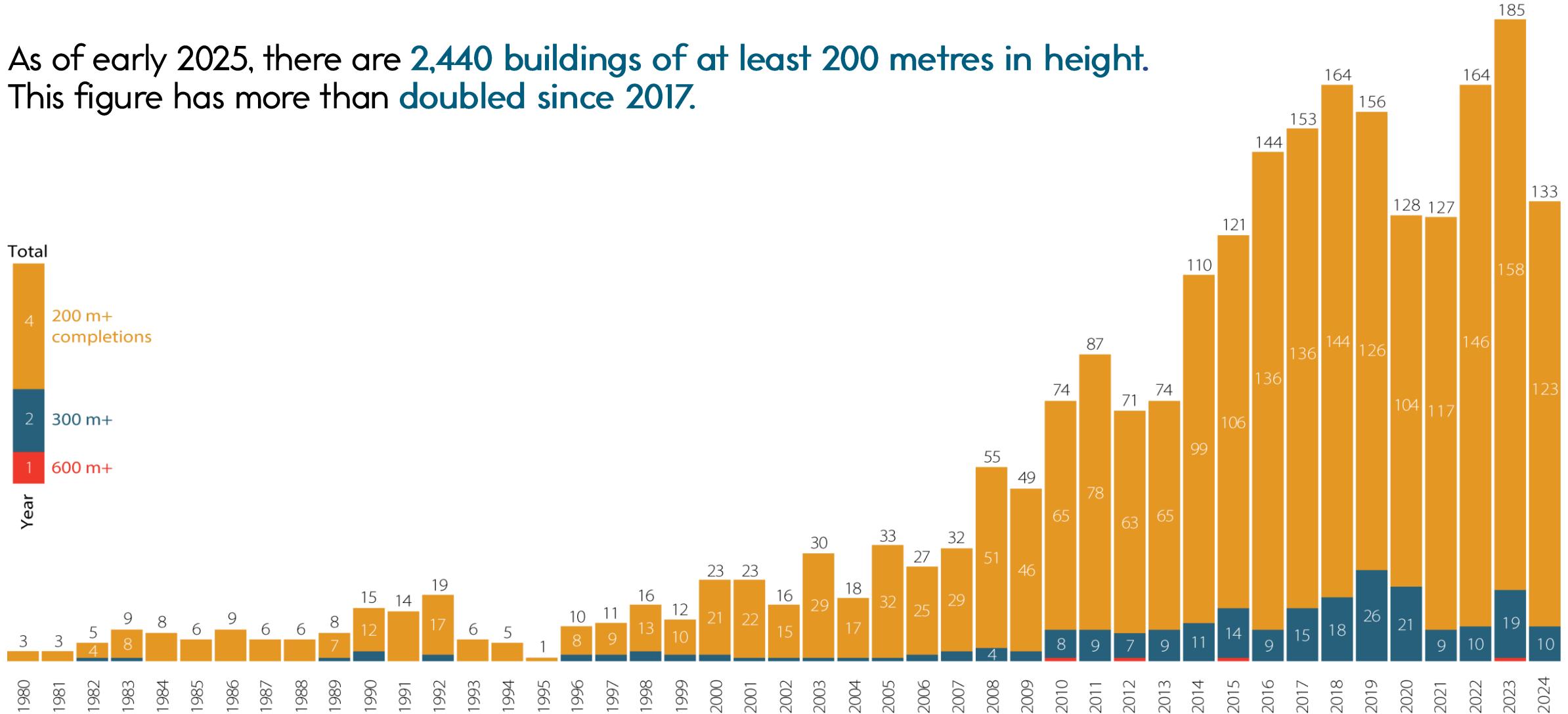
CTBUH is the global authority on tall buildings and vertical urbanism.

Founded in 1969, it brings together over a million professionals across the building industry to explore how vertical growth can support sustainable, healthy cities.

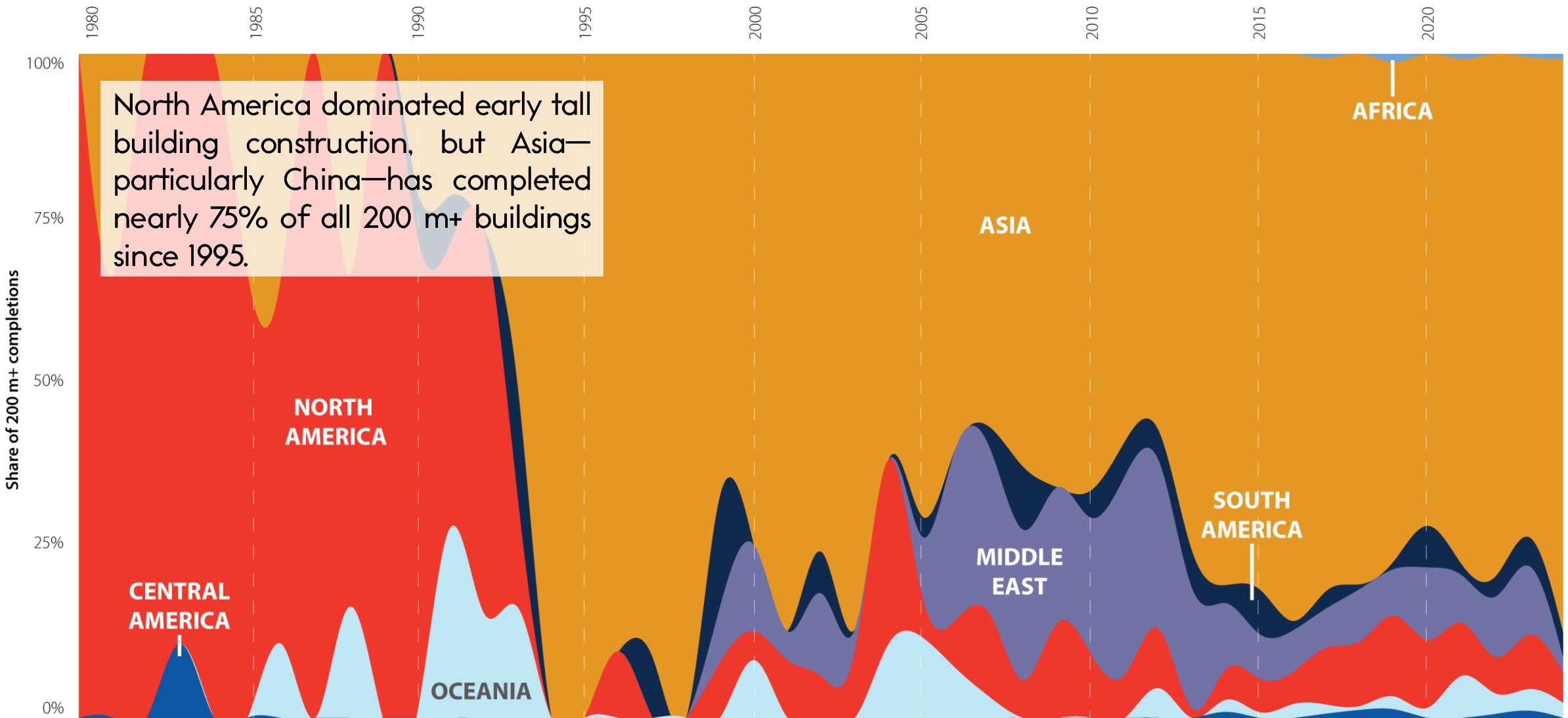
Through research, events, awards, and data tools, CTBUH advances knowledge and supports collaboration for shaping the future of cities.

GLOBAL TALL BUILDING CONTEXT

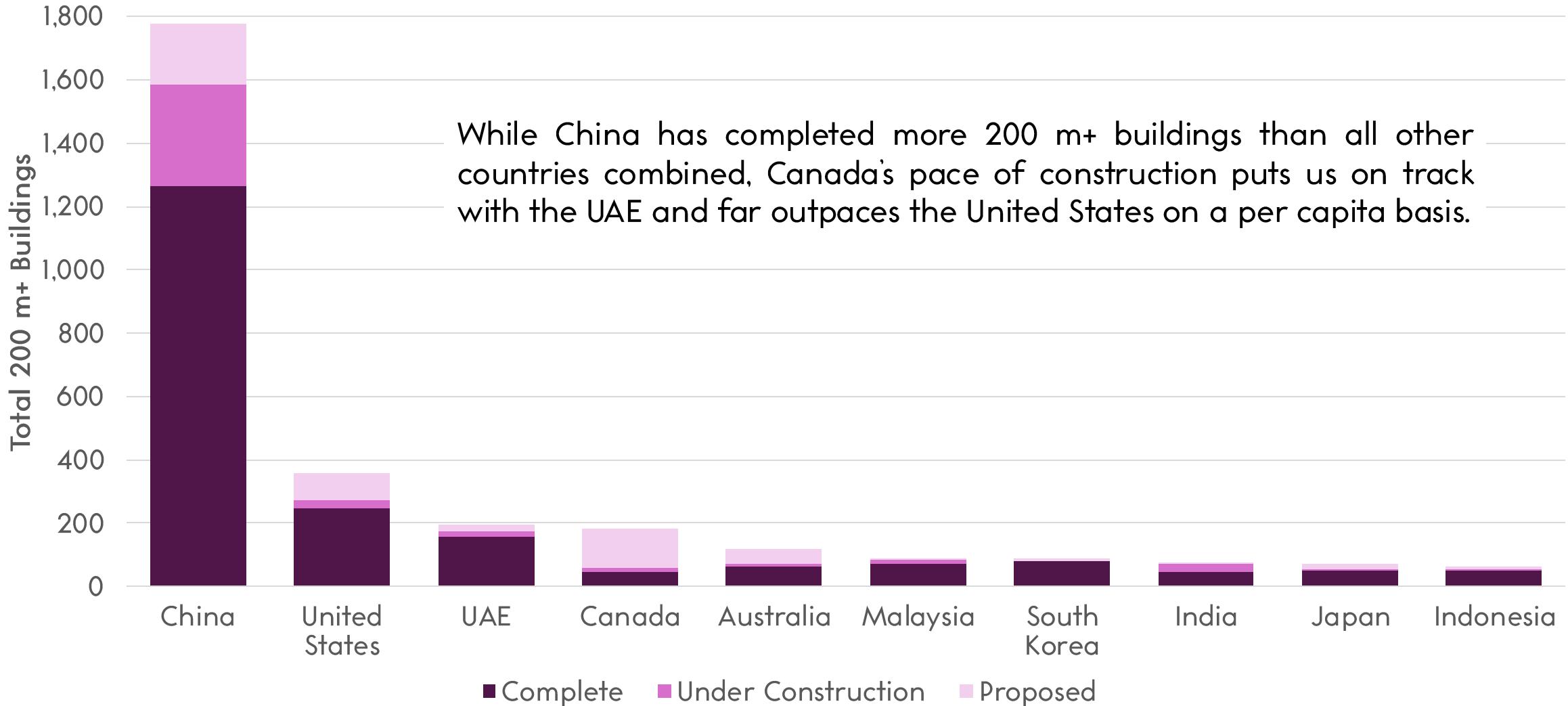
As of early 2025, there are **2,440** buildings of at least 200 metres in height.
This figure has more than **doubled** since 2017.



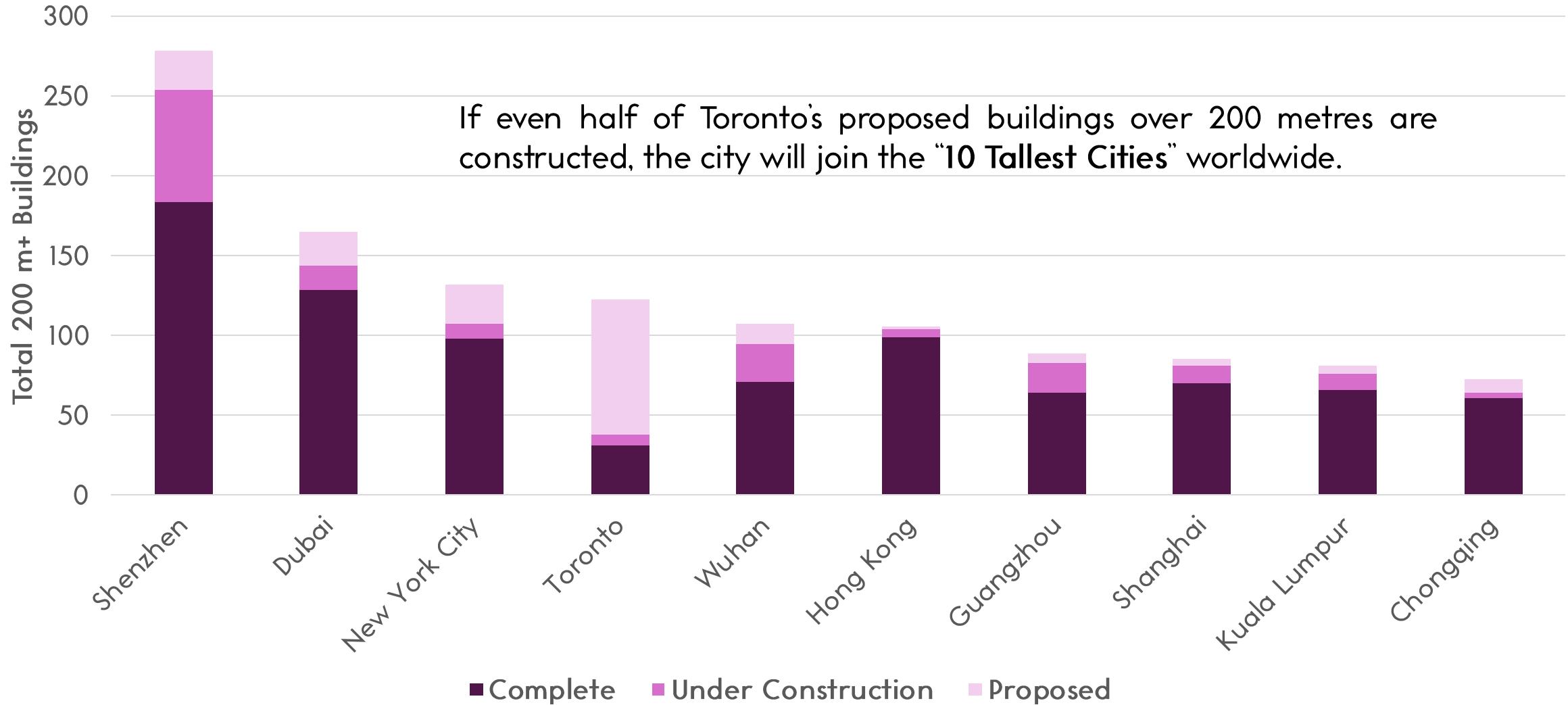
GLOBAL TALL BUILDING CONTEXT



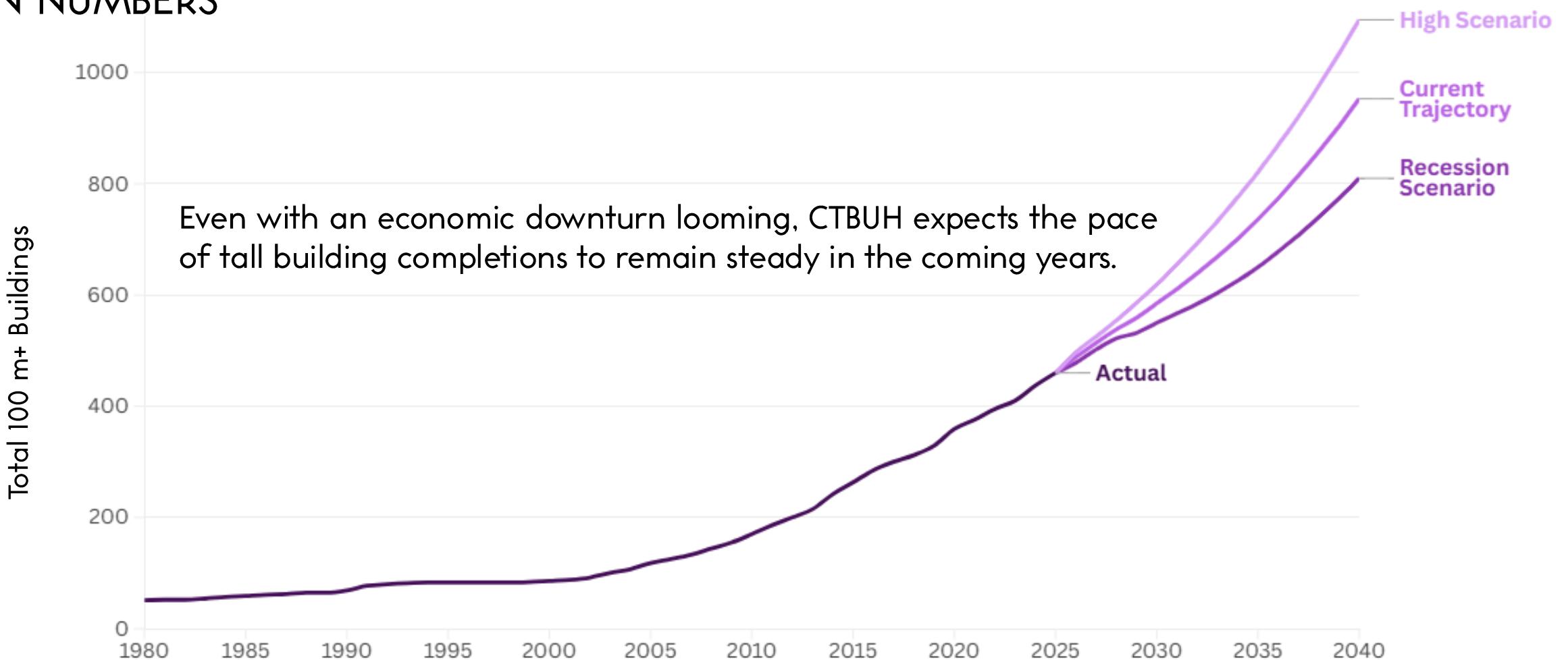
CANADA'S TALL BUILDING GROWTH IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT



TORONTO'S TALL BUILDING GROWTH IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT



TORONTO'S TALL BUILDING GROWTH IN NUMBERS



LEARN MORE – ENGAGE WITH CTBUH

LEARN

CTBUH Research Library

Videos, webinars, journal papers, technical guides, full-length publications, white papers

Tall Building Database

Catalogue of 45,000+ tall buildings with metadata on use, material, height, GFA, Dus, and more

ATTEND

International Conference

6-9 October 2025 at Westin Harbour Castle

CTBUH Canada Launch

9 October at TMU

COLLABORATE

CTBUH Canada

A new urban research office opening July 2025 in collaboration with Toronto Metropolitan University's Department of Architectural Science



Today's program focuses on Toronto's strong connection between tall buildings and the public realm in the PATH, an extensive central network of tunnels and skybridges connecting workers, residents, and tourists in the Financial District and surrounding areas.

TORONTO PATH NETWORK

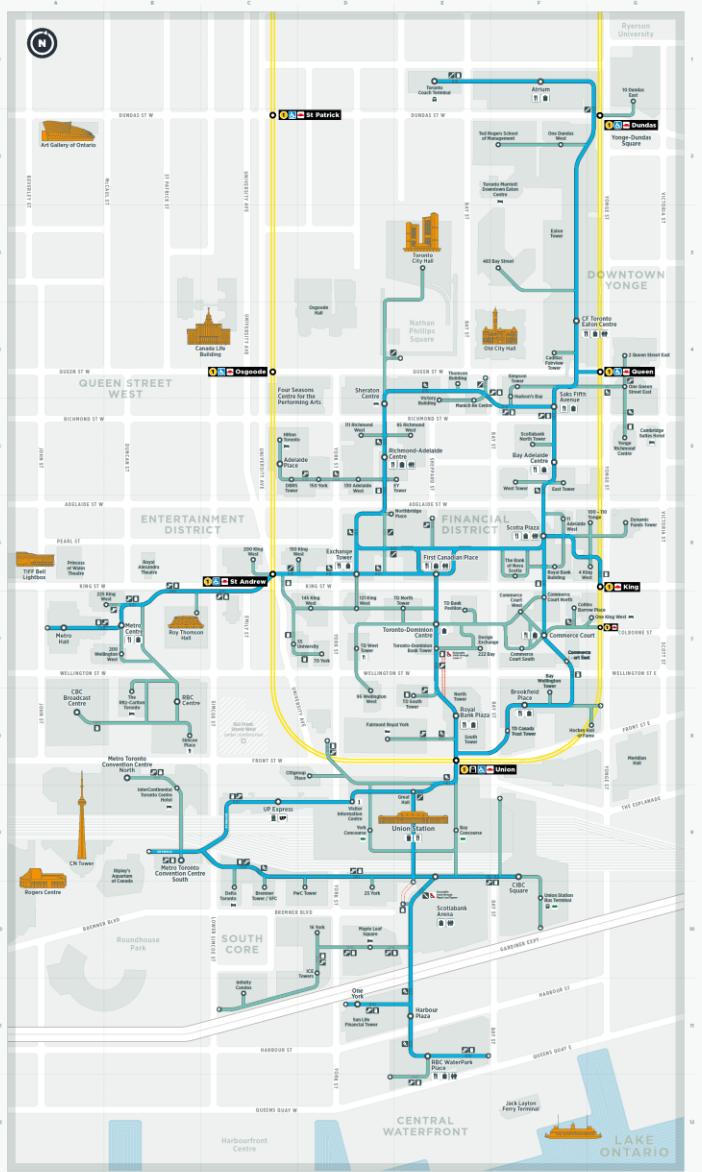
About the PATH

Welcome to the PATH — Toronto's Downtown Underground Pedestrian Walkway linking 30 kilometres of underground shopping, services and entertainment.

Map directory

Map key

Toronto PATH	Transit
• Main PATH routes	TTC subway
• Connecting PATH routes	• Subway line
• Alternative accessible route	• GO regional rail/bus
• Retail	• UP Express airport train
• Food court	• Train station
• Hotel	
• Washrooms	• Barrier-free subway entrance



City of Toronto's PATH Guide



ORIGINS

The PATH began in 1901, connecting separate Eaton's department stores—an early example of retail and pedestrian integration. The original tunnel is still in use today and serves as the entrance to the Queen subway station.

In 1930, it connected the Royal York Hotel to Union Station, Canada's largest transit hub.

The modern PATH network began in 1970 with the Sheraton Centre and Richmond Adelaide Centre and expanded with connections to the TD Centre and Commerce Court.



Eaton's

P-A-T-H

MODERN EXPANSION



Commerce
Court
Concourse



TD Centre
Shopping
Concourse

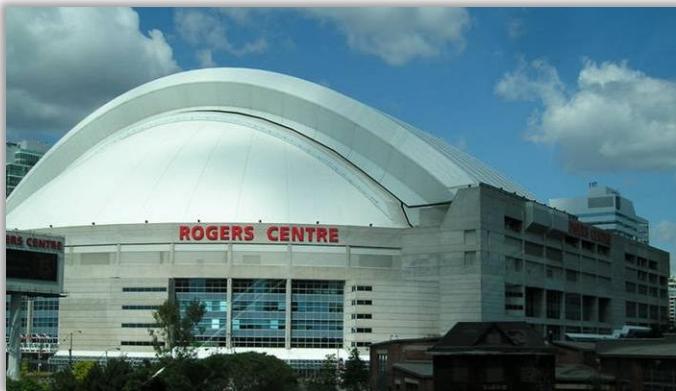


Union Station Concourse



SCOPE & CONNECTIVITY

More than 20 major attractions are accessible via the PATH, including sports venues, cultural institutions, and shopping destinations.





SCOPE & CONNECTIVITY

Today's PATH extends over 30 kilometres of pedestrian tunnels and walkways.

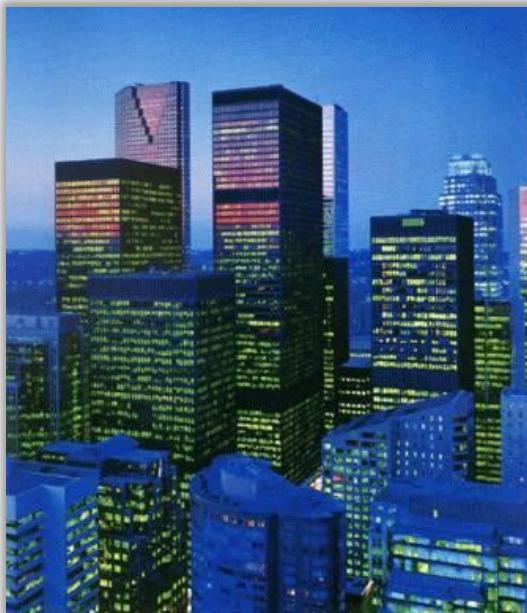
It covers 3 million gross leasable square feet, featuring over 1,200 stores and generating \$1.5 billion in annual sales revenue.





SCOPE & CONNECTIVITY

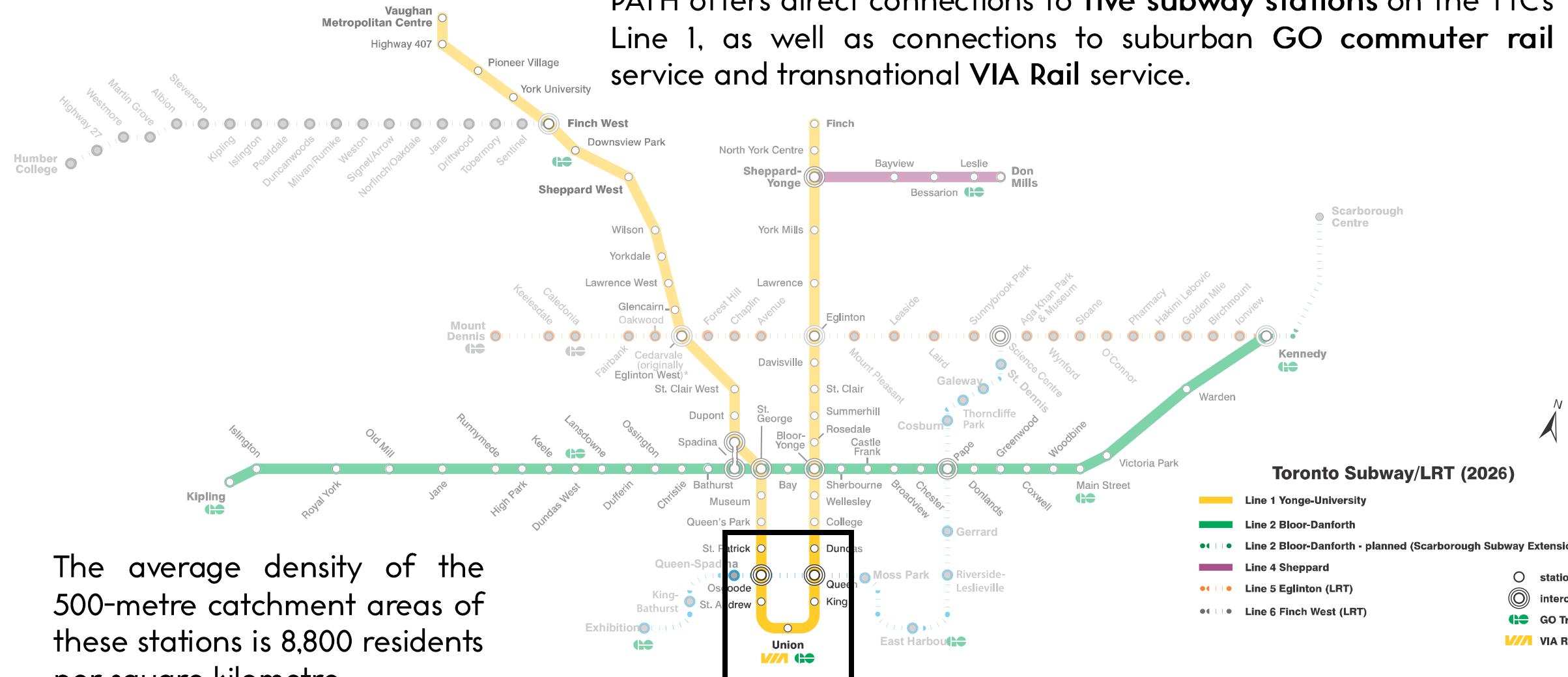
The PATH links over 75 buildings and office towers, five subway stations, and Union Station, a critical interface between Toronto's tall buildings and its transportation infrastructure—as shown on the next slide.



PATH

IN CONTEXT WITH TRANSIT

PATH offers direct connections to **five subway stations** on the TTC's Line 1, as well as connections to suburban GO commuter rail service and transnational **VIA Rail** service.





IMPACT & URBAN INTEGRATION

On a typical weekday, the PATH serves over 200,000 pedestrians, 4,600 workers, and countless visitors.

It provides safe, climate-controlled access throughout the year, supporting sustainability and accessibility goals for Toronto's pedestrian realm.





URBAN DESIGN LESSONS

The PATH is a **key example of sustainable vertical urbanism**—reducing street-level congestion, enhancing intensification, and promoting a more active, connected community.

As we explore the PATH today, we'll see how color-coded wayfinding, integrated building connections, and adaptive reuse of subterranean spaces enhance downtown Toronto's accessibility.

The PATH exemplifies how design and planning promote sustainability, linking tall buildings and public spaces with transit and pedestrian networks.



LEARNING TOUR ROUTE

- 1 Westin Harbour Castle
- 2 CIBC SQUARE
- 3 Royal Bank Plaza
- 4 Brookfield Place
- 5 Commerce Court





DOWNLOAD THE ROUTE MAP

FULL PATH MAP



Learning Tour PATH Map



THANK YOU

