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## NEWS RELEASE

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### Fort St. John Hospital and Residential Care project continues to take shape

The Government of British Columbia (B.C.), Northern Health and the Peace River Regional Hospital District (PRRHD) are celebrating a major milestone on the Fort St John Hospital and Residential Care project, with completion of the User Clinical Consultation Process.

“It is exciting to watch these important health care improvements become a reality for Fort St. John and area residents”, said Peace River-North MLA Pat Pimm. “Across B.C., our government is investing billions of dollars in new and expanded health care facilities to build better patient care.”

The 15-month design stage involved the active participation of more than 150 clinical personnel working at the existing Fort St. John Hospital and North Peace Care Centre facilities. Its conclusion comes just 18 months after private partner ISL Health broke ground on the new 55-bed acute care hospital and 123-bed residential care facility in June, 2009.

“We continue to make progress on-time and on-budget, thanks to the dedication and focus of Project Management Teams at Northern Health and ISL Health,” said project director Tom Sparrow. “Along with construction and equipment procurement, the focus now shifts to the many steps involved in transition planning, and the exciting orientation and training plan development work that lays the foundation for moving in.”

Other highlights of the project’s progress to date include:

- Buildings nearly sealed: The walls, windows and roof are intact on both the hospital, and one of two residential care buildings. With temporary heating systems installed, interior work can continue throughout the winter months.
- Departments taking shape: major progress has been made on construction of the hospital Birthing Centre, which is the furthest advanced medical department in terms of construction completion.
- Equipment on order: orders have been placed for several items in anticipation of installation including heavy laundry equipment, and lights and booms for the new operating rooms.
- Mechanical and electrical systems in place: including 10 large air-handling units, five energy-efficient boilers, two large chillers, and two main switchgears and transformers.

The \$297.9 million hospital and residential care project is on track to open its doors to patients in summer 2012.

"We are very pleased with the design and construction progress to date and anticipate continued project development through the winter months", said Karen Goodings, PRRHD chairperson. "Health care in Northeast B.C. needs this new and modern hospital facility now being constructed."

The Fort St. John Hospital and Residential Care Project is a public private partnership (PPP) between Northern Health and ISL Health who will design, build, finance and maintain the new facility for a fixed term of 30 years. ISL Health will be responsible for building maintenance, life cycle repair and renewal, and project financing during the fixed term. All clinical services will continue to be provided by the Provincial Government through Northern Health.

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