

## NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release

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### **Local workers well represented on Lakes District Hospital and Health Centre construction project**

Workers from Burns Lake and across northern B.C. are well represented on the construction site for the new Lakes District Hospital and Health Centre. Of the 40 crew members hired by PCL Constructors Westcoast Inc., 33 are from northern B.C. including:

- Burns Lake - 22
- Fraser Lake - 2
- Prince George - 8
- 108 Mile - 1

“It is encouraging to see residents of Burns Lake and northern B.C. benefiting from construction of the Lakes District Hospital and Health Centre,” said Nechako Lakes MLA John Rustad. “The facility is helping families now by providing work in the region, and will help families in the future thanks to the state-of-the-art facility that will serve the area.”

First Nations workers are also well represented on the project. To date 16 First Nations workers have been on site at the new hospital and health centre.

“The Stuart Nechako Regional Hospital District is proud to fund a project that is benefiting our local workers and contractors, including First Nations,” said Ralph Roy, Stuart Nechako Regional Hospital District Chair. “PCL Westcoast Constructors Inc. indicated at the start of the project they would use as many local resources as possible, and it is great to see them following through on this commitment.”

PCL Constructors Westcoast Inc. is the general contractor that is building the Lakes District Hospital and Health Centre. The total project cost of up to \$55 million is shared between the government of British Columbia and Stuart Nechako Regional Hospital District.

“We’re very excited to see the project moving forward on-time and on-budget,” said Michael McMillan, Northern Health Chief Operating Officer for the Northern Interior. “Staff and physicians are very excited about the progress being made on the new facility, and the improved working environment it will offer.”

The replacement hospital is scheduled to be completed and open for patients by the fall of 2015. The project is expected to generate approximately 200 direct jobs during the

construction period. The new hospital is being built behind the current facility, which will be demolished once the new centre is completed and occupied.

“We make every effort to support the local economies in the communities where we work. We work with a variety of industry related support groups including: WorkBC, College of New Caledonia, the Lakes District Aboriginal Training to Employment Society, the Pacific Trails Pipeline Aboriginal Skills Employment Program and others to ensure we maximize opportunities for local workers,” said Sean Brock, PCL Westcoast Constructors Inc. District Manager. “It’s good for the community and good for business.”

The new hospital will have 16 beds and the new centre will provide acute care and emergency services, diagnostic imaging, a laboratory and pharmacy. Space also is planned for a medical clinic along with the delivery of mental health and addictions services, public health, and home and community care.

The facility will be a two-storey building and approximately 6,100 square metres (65,000 square feet). The hospital will be a green and energy efficient facility designed to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Gold certification.