

NEWS RELEASE

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Design of new Lakes District Hospital and Health Centre unveiled

Lakes District community residents came out today to have a firsthand look at the new designs for Lakes District Hospital and Health Care Centre Replacement project. The project's Preferred Proponent—PCL Constructors Westcoast Inc. (PCL)—was also on hand to answer questions at the community update meeting.

"The Province of B.C. is committed to providing high quality health care facilities for the Village of Burns Lake residents and surrounding communities," said John Rustad, MLA Nechako-Lakes. "The designs unveiled today represent the very latest in health care innovations and technologies that will benefit the way health care services will be delivered by 2015."

CEI Architecture, a member of the PCL team, met with the community to discuss the design concepts for the new facilities. PCL was selected as the preferred proponent on March 12 and is currently working with Northern Health to finalize a Design-Build agreement to deliver the project.

The new hospital and health centre will house 16 beds, provide acute care and emergency services, diagnostic imaging, a laboratory and pharmacy. Facility space is planned for the medical clinic along with the delivery of mental health and additions services, public health, and home and community care, and will include administrative and logistical services. The new hospital will enable Northern Health clinicians and staff to deliver client-focused, health-care services in a modernized environment that will ultimately improve outcomes for patients.

"The Stuart Nechako Regional Hospital District is proud to be a funding partner for this beautiful new facility," said Ralph Roy, Stuart Nechako Regional Hospital District Chair. "Showcasing the design to the community is exciting as it brings the project one step closer to reality."

The community update gave residents of the Lakes District an opportunity to meet with representatives from the preferred proponent, Northern Health, and Partnerships B.C., and to hear an update on future stages of the project.

"CEI Architecture's design will provide a state-of-the-art work environment for staff and physicians in Burns Lake," said Michael McMillan, Northern Health chief operating officer.

"We're looking forward to seeing the design brought to life over the next two and a half years."

Construction on the new facility is expected to begin in early spring, be completed in the fall of 2015. The project is expected to cost up to \$55 million.

Media Contact:

NH media line - 250-961-7724

