
NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Health

FRASER VALLEY PATIENTS GET \$30M IN HIGH-TECH SYSTEMS

ABBOTSFORD – Fraser Valley patients will benefit from \$30 million in state-of-the-art medical technology and systems, giving health-care professionals at Abbotsford Regional Hospital and Cancer Centre critical decision-making information at the patient’s bedside, Health Minister George Abbott announced today.

GE Healthcare was selected through a competitive process to provide medical imaging equipment and patient monitoring systems for the hospital and cancer centre. In addition, GE Healthcare will provide digital picture archiving and communications system for the facility.

“The purchase of sophisticated imaging and monitoring systems for the new hospital and cancer centre demonstrates our commitment to provide patients and health-care professionals with the very latest in medical equipment for this world-class facility,” said Abbott. “This investment in technology gives health-care professionals the most advanced tools possible, allowing for more precise diagnosis, treatment and care, with less inconvenience for the patient.”

More than 14,000 pieces of equipment will be installed before the hospital and cancer centre opens for patients in summer 2008. The \$30-million agreement with GE Healthcare represents the largest package of equipment awarded and includes advanced imaging and monitoring technology, such as:

- a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) machine – the first publicly owned and operated in the eastern Fraser Valley;
- two 64-slice Computerized Tomography (CT) scanners;
- two CT simulators used in cancer treatment planning;
- two digital mammography units – a first for the Fraser Health Authority; and
- an anesthesia information management system – the first of its kind in Canada.

“Residents of Abbotsford and the Fraser Valley will benefit from having better access to medical imaging equipment – like MRI – closer to home,” said Abbotsford-Mount Lehman MLA Mike de Jong.

“The technology systems installed at the new hospital and cancer centre will improve patient care, including cancer treatment and outcomes, by helping to identify the early signs of cancer,” said Abbotsford-Clayburn MLA John van Dongen.

“The BC Cancer Agency’s Abbotsford Centre at ARHCC will be the first radiation therapy department in the province to use solely CT technology for the planning of radiation treatments. The new facility will improve access to care for people with cancer in the Fraser Valley,” said Michael Marchbank, executive vice president for the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA), which operates the BC Cancer Agency.

The new Abbotsford Regional Hospital and Cancer Centre is a public-private partnership between the Ministry of Health, Fraser Health Authority, PHSA, Fraser Valley Regional Hospital District and Access Health Abbotsford (AHA). Following extensive consultation with clinicians and the health authorities, an agreement was reached between AHA and GE Healthcare to purchase and install the medical equipment. Construction on the new hospital and cancer centre is progressing and the project is on time and on budget.

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2 backgrounder(s) attached.

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