
NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Health Services
BC Cancer Agency
Northern Health

THREE TEAMS SHORTLISTED FOR NEW CANCER CENTRE

VICTORIA – Three qualified proponent teams have been shortlisted to participate in the request for proposals (RFP) phase of the competition to design, build, finance and maintain the BC Cancer Agency Centre for the North in Prince George.

“With the annual number of new cancer diagnoses in the north projected to increase 30 per cent to around 1,325 cases by 2015, expanding the network of cancer care services is critical to ensuring access to specialized health care,” said Health Services Minister George Abbott. “This project demonstrates our government’s ongoing commitment to providing modern, state-of-the-art health-care facilities, while ensuring value for taxpayer dollars.”

Four proponent teams responded to the request for qualifications (RFQ) that closed on Oct. 21. Following evaluation of the responses received, three teams were shortlisted. They are:

- Northern Gateway Health;
- Plenary Health; and
- Sequence Health.

The teams each have a variety of members who represent B.C.-based, national and international companies.

“We are pleased with the level of interest shown in the BC Cancer Agency Centre for the North project,” said Prince George North MLA Pat Bell. “In these tough economic times, it’s encouraging to know that businesses remain attracted to investing in northern B.C.”

The short-listed respondents will be invited to respond to the request for proposals (RFP). The RFP stage will result in the selection of a preferred proponent to undertake the cancer centre project in Prince George.

“The shortlist announced today moves us one step closer to ensuring that patients and their families who are battling cancer will be able to do that closer to home. All of us have been impacted by cancer in some way and we know that having the support of loved ones makes an enormous difference,” said Prince George-Mount Robson MLA Shirley Bond. “The BC Cancer Agency Centre for the North will make treatment closer to home a reality.”

The BC Cancer Agency Centre for the North project is one component of the Northern Cancer Control Strategy, a joint initiative undertaken by the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA), BC Cancer Agency and Northern Health. The new Centre for the North will provide residents of northern British Columbia with increased access to cancer treatment and diagnostic services. The cancer centre will be located on the Prince George Regional Hospital site. The 4,200-square-metre facility will include two linear accelerators used in the delivery of radiation therapy treatment. The centre will be designed to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification.

“Another key project milestone has been reached today with the announcement of three shortlisted teams for the new northern cancer centre,” said Prince George-Omineca MLA John Rustad. “We are pleased with the highly skilled and qualified teams that came forward to participate in the process.”

“The Centre for the North will be an integral part of the agency’s provincial cancer control system, providing care and research for the people of B.C.,” said Karim Karmali, chief operating officer and a vice-president of the BC Cancer Agency, an agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority.

The fairness advisor, ADR Chambers Inc., has reviewed the RFQ process and found that the evaluation met the criteria of fairness, openness, transparency and integrity. The fairness advisor’s report is available on Partnerships BC’s website at www.partnershipsbc.ca.

The cancer centre was approved by the Province on July 18, 2008. Construction is targeted to start in late 2009, with a completion goal of 2012. The facility is being pursued as a public-private partnership.

All health services will be funded by the Province of British Columbia through PHSA and Northern Health, in keeping with the Canada Health Act.

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