
NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2009HSERV0031-000598
March 31, 2009

Ministry of Health Services
Northern Health

FORT ST. JOHN HOSPITAL PROJECT MOVES FORWARD

FORT ST. JOHN – A preferred proponent has been named to work with Northern Health and the Provincial government in negotiations as part of the next steps needed toward building the new Fort St. John Hospital and Residential Care Facility project.

ISL Health was selected as the company that the province will enter into negotiations with to design, build, finance and maintain the new hospital project, following an extensive evaluation of proposals received from the two competing shortlisted teams.

“This is an exciting milestone in the history of healthcare in northeast British Columbia,” said Health Services Minister George Abbott. “Across the province, we are investing in major capital projects to build new infrastructure that meets demand for quality and sustainable health care services.”

The Fort St. John Hospital project includes:

- A 55-bed hospital.
- A 123-bed residential care facility for seniors.
- An integrated services building for centralized food, laundry and material services.

“A hospital with a wide range of services is essential to the life of a vibrant community,” said Senator Richard Neufeld. “I’m pleased that the hospital soon will provide cutting-edge health care in the north when it is completed by the end of 2011.”

The new 15,000-square-metre (161,000-square-foot) hospital will replace the aging existing community hospital constructed in 1962. The new hospital will increase the number of acute care beds from 42 to 55, including the development of single-room maternity care. It will also feature two brand-new state-of-the-art operating rooms and an endoscopy suite. The hospital and long-term care facility will be built on a 16-hectare (40-acre) site at 8407 - 112th Avenue in Fort St. John, with land provided from the City of Fort St. John. The new hospital and residential care facility will be designed to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification as part of the government’s commitment to a greener and more sustainable future.

“The new Fort St. John Hospital will accommodate the needs of patients and will also provide an extremely supportive working environment for staff, physicians and volunteers,” said Peace River Regional Hospital District chairperson Karen Goodings. “This project provides a tremendous opportunity to improve health care in our community.”

The next stage in the competitive selection process is to conclude negotiations with ISL Health – a process that is expected to culminate in a project agreement by early summer. The purpose of the negotiation is to finalize a fixed project cost that maximizes value for taxpayers. Details about the agreement and the final project cost will be made public after financial close.

A fairness advisor, the law firm Heenan Blaikie, was appointed to monitor the procurement process and to ensure it was undertaken fairly and followed the requirements outlined in the Request for Proposals (RFP). The fairness advisor’s report is available on Partnerships BC’s website at www.partnershipsbc.ca.

The hospital and residential care project will be built as a public private partnership. All clinical health services will be funded by the Province of British Columbia and provided by Northern Health, in keeping with the principles of the Canada Health Act. Additional funding will be provided by the Peace River Regional Hospital District.

Capital spending in the health sector will total \$2.5 billion over the next three years as part of the province’s \$14 billion infrastructure spending plan.

1 backgrounder(s) attached.

Media contact:	Bernadette Murphy Media Relations Manager Ministry of Health Services 250 952-1887 250 213-9590 cell	Northern Health Media Line 250 961-7724
----------------	--	---

For more information on government services or to subscribe to the Province’s news feeds using RSS, visit the Province’s website at www.gov.bc.ca.