
NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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RFQ for new Fort St. John Hospital project

Northern Health has issued a request for qualification (RFQ) for the new Fort St. John Hospital project. The project received provincial government funding approval last month to replace and expand the current Fort St. John Hospital. The project will also include a residential care facility and services building.

“This is an exciting step forward in the construction of a new hospital and residential care facility in Fort St. John to serve northern residents,” said Peace River North MLA Richard Neufeld. “The need to replace the existing hospital is clear to everyone, and the new hospital is part of our commitment to providing our residents with state-of-the-art health facilities.”

The RFQ invites teams to indicate their interest and qualifications for the project in a competitive process. The ultimate result will be the selection of a team to design, build, finance and maintain the facility and its support services. These include the new 55-bed hospital, the new services building for centralized food and laundry services, and a new 123-bed residential care facility for seniors. All of these buildings will be on a new 40 acre site in Fort St. John, with land provided from the City of Fort St. John.

Once the RFQ stage is completed, NH will invite a shortlist of proponents to submit proposals under a request for proposal (RFP) this summer. NH expects to choose a preferred proponent for the new facilities by the spring of 2009. Construction will start following a contract agreement with the preferred proponent, and wrap up by 2011.

The cost of the project is estimated at \$268 million. The final cost of will depend on bids submitted through the RFP and market conditions throughout the competitive selection process. The Province will contribute \$179 million for the project, with the remainder identified in the Peace River Regional Hospital District’s capital plans.

“We are very excited to see yet another important step forward being taken on this project”, said Peace River Regional Hospital District chairperson Karen Goodings. “The new hospital and residential care facility are part of a bright future for this rapidly growing region.”

The new facility will be pursued as a public private partnership. Northern Health will retain ownerships of the land and the facilities. NH will also fund and provide all of the health services in keeping with the Canada Health Care Act.

Northern Health delivers health-care services in the northeast through a range of facilities and programs, including hospitals in Fort St. John and Dawson Creek. Those two hospitals share programs to provide a range of specialized services for area residents. Fort St. John Hospital works

with hospitals and health facilities across the northeast and currently serves a population of about 69,000, compared to around 4,000 people when the hospital was built in 1962. The northeast population is projected to increase by 21 per cent to approximately 84,000 by 2028.

British Columbia's health system will benefit from more investments like Fort St. John over the next three years as part of the Province's \$2.7-billion health sector capital plan.

The RFQ is available at www.bcbid.ca

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