
NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2008HEALTH0056-000741
May 23, 2008

Ministry of Health
Fraser Health

SURREY OUTPATIENT HOSPITAL PROJECT MOVES AHEAD

SURREY – A preferred proponent has been named to work as part of the next steps needed toward building the new Surrey Outpatient Hospital.

BC Healthcare Solutions was selected as the company that the Province will enter into negotiations with to design, build, finance and maintain the new facility. Fraser Health will provide a full range of scheduled outpatient services, which are expected to include day surgery, diagnostic imaging and medical clinics, and also to include a primary health-care clinic to deliver better family practice services.

“We are pleased to see this project reach another important milestone today as it signifies our ongoing commitment to expanding health-care services in Fraser Health,” said Health Minister George Abbott. “The new outpatient hospital will provide significant help in addressing congestion at Surrey Memorial Hospital and is part of a broader strategy to meet future health-care needs in Surrey.”

BC Healthcare Solutions was selected after an extensive evaluation of proposals from the two teams that submitted proposals.

“It is exciting to see plans for a new, much-needed outpatient hospital moving forward,” said Surrey-Tynehead MLA Dave S. Hayer. “The need is clear to everyone, and the new hospital is part of our commitment to providing Surrey area residents with state-of-the-art health care facilities.”

The next stage is to conclude negotiations with BC Healthcare Solutions – a process that is expected to finish with the signing of a project agreement later this summer.

“Patient care at both Surrey Memorial and the new facility will be enhanced by bringing together programs in a more efficient and integrated way. The new Surrey outpatient facility will help Fraser Health meet the growing care needs of Surrey and other communities in the region,” said Dr. Nigel Murray, president and CEO of Fraser Health. “Fraser Health is looking forward to this next phase of the process: engaging with the preferred proponent to finalize a fixed project cost that maximizes value for taxpayers while delivering a modern and technologically-advanced facility.”

The new outpatient hospital will house clinics for patients with chronic diseases such as: congestive heart failure, asthma, diabetes, and other debilitating illnesses. Surrey Memorial Hospital currently handles almost 134,000 outpatient clinic visits and performs 94,300 outpatient diagnostic procedures per year. These numbers are expected to grow by nearly 60 per cent by 2020.

The new facility is part of the Surrey Health Services Capacity Initiative, launched in 2005 with a value of more than \$200 million. This initiative's goals are to ease congestion at Surrey Memorial Hospital and to begin to address the rapidly growing health needs of the region. Fraser Health is currently working on plans to expand services at the Surrey Memorial site in addition to the initiative's previously-announced projects for:

- A new state-of-the-art emergency and urgent care facility to triple existing floor space at Surrey Memorial Hospital.
- A new tertiary perinatal care facility above the new emergency facility for high-risk newborns and obstetrics.
- Renovations at Surrey Memorial Hospital and new construction to create more kidney dialysis stations, additional acute care and critical care beds.

A fairness advisor, John Singleton of the law firm Singleton Urquhart LLP, 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 will be publicly available as soon as it is completed on Partnerships BC's website, at www.partnershipsbc.ca/.

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

1 backgrounder(s) attached.

Media contact: Michelle Stewart
Communications Director
Ministry of Health
250 812-5571
250 952-1887 (media line)

David Plug
Director of Public Affairs
Fraser Health
604 614-1682
604 450-7881 (media pager)

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.