



# Fort St. John Hospital & Residential Care Project

*An update from the Project Management Office*  
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## Project reaches milestone with completion of birthing centre

The new birthing centre at the Fort St. John Hospital and Residential Care facility is the first department to be completed in the \$300-million, public-private partnership.

Kelly Joy, the hospital's Clinical Coordinator for the birthing unit, said there is much anticipation regarding the Labour/ Delivery/Recovery/Postpartum (LDRP) process that will take place in the new department.

"The birthing centre is now a reality, not just a discussion point of what is going to work for us. This new unit is so modern compared to the current unit and I feel a real sense of achievement at what the whole team has done together," said Joy. "We are continuing to work together to plan our new processes for providing quality care and modern practices, such as constant contact between family and newborn and single room maternity care, yet doing our best to keep the room 'non-clinical'."

Some of the more unique features in the birthing unit include having 11 in-patient rooms – seven LDRPs, and four ante/postpartum rooms – with staff able to accommodate new mothers who wish to have round-the-clock support from their partners/families.



*A nursing station located in the newly-completed birthing unit in the new Fort St. John hospital.*

"Each in-patient room has a huge window for lots of natural lighting which is fabulous, and the LDRPs each have their own shower/tub," said Joy.

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# New birthing centre to offer patient and family-centred care

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Joy noted that other unique features include the layout of the nursery, with a central desk surrounded by four infant cubicles and extra space allowing for enhanced management of sick newborns waiting for transport to a neonatal intensive care unit (NICU); a separate outpatient area which allows for the possibility of program growth in the future; and special security for the new birthing unit.

Architect Troy Ransdell, Associate Vice President of Cannon Design, the architects for the project, said the fundamental philosophy of the new birthing centre focuses on patient and family-centered care.

“It’s a design philosophy that places the patient and their family at the fundamental core of design decisions,” said Ransdell.

“The idea is to support patient healing by creating environmental conditions that facilitate positive patient outcomes.”

Ransdell also noted the placement of the birthing centre next to the surgical department for quick access to the operating room (OR) for caesarean sections.

“Perhaps the most unique feature is how the department was divided into zones. Infant security and privacy is really important so we created departmental zones to advance these concepts,” he said. “The zones provide higher levels of security and privacy as you go deeper into the department. The most secure zone holds the nursery and actual labour rooms.”

Tony Boot, Site Superintendent, Hospital Facility, for the builders, Acciona/Stuart Olson Dominion, said doing mockups of various rooms in the birthing centre ensured that most Northern Health requests were included in the finished product.

“Northern Health, along with existing hospital staff, signed off on the rooms before construction began, eliminating any major reconstruction,” said Boot.

Northern Health Project Director Tom Sparrow said the completion of the birthing centre is significant. “It represents the first step in the final stage of our project and the successful completion of a department,” he said.

Both Joy and Ransdell praised the working relationship between the hospital’s clinical staff and ISL Health’s design team led by Glen Kelsey, Design Manager, Acciona/Stuart Olson Dominion. Joy said it was amazing to see how the design team translated staff input into the construction process.

“We all realize that this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, but with it comes change – in fact, change to everything we do and to every process that we have developed over the past many years,” she said. “So, in addition to the work that we do every day, we are now on the road to developing new ways that we will work together to deliver outstanding care to each of our patients.” •



The art contest was sponsored by Northern Health, the Peace River North School District 60 and ISL Health. The winning artwork will be incorporated into a photo book and displayed when the new facility opens in June 2012. Photo: Tabitha Dyer

## Art contest draws 160 entries

Twelve students were named as prize winners in the second annual Fort St. John Hospital and Residential Care Project art contest on June 21, 2011. The 160 entries were based on the theme, “Building the hospital one room at a time.”

The winners are:

### Kindergarten to Grade 3:

**1st:** Jordyn Krezanoski, Gr. 2, Bert Ambrose Elementary

**2nd:** Olivia Materi Braaten, Gr. 2, Bert Ambrose Elementary

**3rd:** Cassandra Field, Gr. 2, Finch Elementary

### Grades 4 to 6:

**1st:** Eryn Dyck, Gr. 6, Bert Ambrose Elementary

**2nd:** Caleb Blanchette, Gr. 6, Bert Ambrose Elementary

**3rd:** Faith Simon, Gr. 6, Bert Ambrose Elementary

### Grades 7 to 9:

**1st:** Cristine May Cruz, Gr. 7, Dr. Kearney Middle School

**2nd:** Ashlyn Shuster, Gr. 7, Dr. Kearney Middle School

**3rd:** Cassidy Callison, Gr. 7, Dr. Kearney Middle School

### Grades 10 to 12:

**1st:** Jenna Chartrand, Gr. 11, North Peace Secondary

**2nd:** Morgan Dettling, Gr. 12, North Peace Secondary

**3rd:** Caitlyn Gallinger, Gr. 11, North Peace Secondary •

# Transition planning on track for move into new facility

Transition planning for the clinical operations side of the new hospital and residential care project is well underway and is being led by the Ontario-based Dot to Dot consulting group. Patricia Santiago-Sorrell, who heads the company's Capital Planning and Project Management team, said Dot to Dot provides the leadership that organizations are looking for as they reach the mid-part of their transition planning.



Patricia  
Santiago-Sorrell

"We're part of the push to get the momentum going. We're helping them to visualize what their new operational reality will be in the new space, understand their workflow, the interdependencies within the project, the risks, the timelines, and the scenario-playing that organizations really need to think about prior to move-in," she said.

The transition process began in late May; Dot to Dot will return to the

city on a monthly basis.

"We go for at least three to four days at a time. We facilitate a discussion on how the different programs or departments could handle

certain questions such as, 'How do you transport patients from one area to another?'" she said. "We ask them to discuss these questions, then their homework is to figure out what they have to think about or talk about with other people in order to resolve these issues. Then we follow up with emails or phone calls prior to our next visit."

Dot to Dot will not provide any training for hospital or residential

care staff, but will develop a schedule for the timelines when staff will be trained in-house.

Santiago-Sorrell said the transition process is all about proper planning for the move, implementation of the plans through discussion and role-playing, then monitoring and practice. "It's an iterative process and will take 12 months, with all of us knowing full well there may be changes along the way that may pose risks to the project and affect certain timeframes."

She said the project will become fully operational not only when the clinical operations side is ready; building readiness and people readiness (staff training) must also be complete.

"Readiness in the three areas is key to the new project functioning properly – they are each integral to the success of the other," she said. ●

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## Northern Health people on the move

The progression of the hospital and residential care project has resulted in new positions and responsibilities for seven Northern Health staff members. Here is an update:

- **Christine Bennett:** Clinical Educator, and chairperson for the Training Orientation and Education (TOE) Committee – Leads the training and education for new equipment and work flow processes for the hospital and residential care centre; lead person on orientation plan for all staff and special guests.
- **Jessie Drew:** HR Advisor, North East, Special Projects – Provides advice on HR matters related to the new site and works with unions and management to facilitate some of the changes that will take place.
- **Jenn Halldorson:** Transition

Administrative Assistant – Assists department managers on all things transition-related; books meetings and conference times for all departments; liaises with Project Management Team (PMO) and North Peace Care Centre on overall move.

- **Jan Logan:** Administrative Assistant, PMO – Provides administrative support to the PMO, takes meeting minutes for the various project working groups; makes travel arrangements.
- **Lynn Smiley:** Policy Development Coordinator – Lynn has worked within the hospital since 1984 and was previously Manager of Patient Care Services. She retired but returned in November 2010. She currently writes and reviews internal and external policy produced for the project to ensure

it aligns with Northern Health; works with clinical nurse leads, educators and managers to ensure policy is in sync with work flow and patient safety; finds and shares policies Northern Health has already produced and placed on iPortal; participates in transition planning.

- **Corinne Stephens:** Advisor, Staff Scheduling – Assists managers in building new rotations and schedules for the new facility both pre- and post-transition.
- **Robin van Donselaar:** Document Coordinator, PMO – Reconciles the equipment list for the new facility through consultation with the clinical managers; manages the equipment list database; works with Ardith Brule (Project Coordinator) on management of all project documents. ●

## Acquiring equipment slow but steady process for new facility

The purchasing and storing of new equipment for Fort St. John's new hospital and residential care facility has turned into a two-person job. Bonnie Tapanila, Northern Health Buyer, Projects, and Ardith Brule, Project Coordinator, are working closely to coordinate the new facility's needs.

"Bonnie deals with the vendor end of things, and I work with the site to coordinate the delivery of equipment when they are ready to install it, ensuring all construction requirements are met. Once we move it in place, we don't want to have to risk moving it again," said Brule. "Bonnie ensures that the managers are an active part of the selection process as well, as they are truly the experts in knowing what they need."

Tapanila said approximately 25 per cent of equipment for the new hospital has been ordered, while only bedpan disposal units have been ordered for the new residential care centre. She's currently in the process of ordering a morgue freezer, diagnostic imaging equipment for the radiography rooms, as well as a bone densitometer, and kitchen equipment. The ordering and receiving process for new equipment will continue until May 2012.

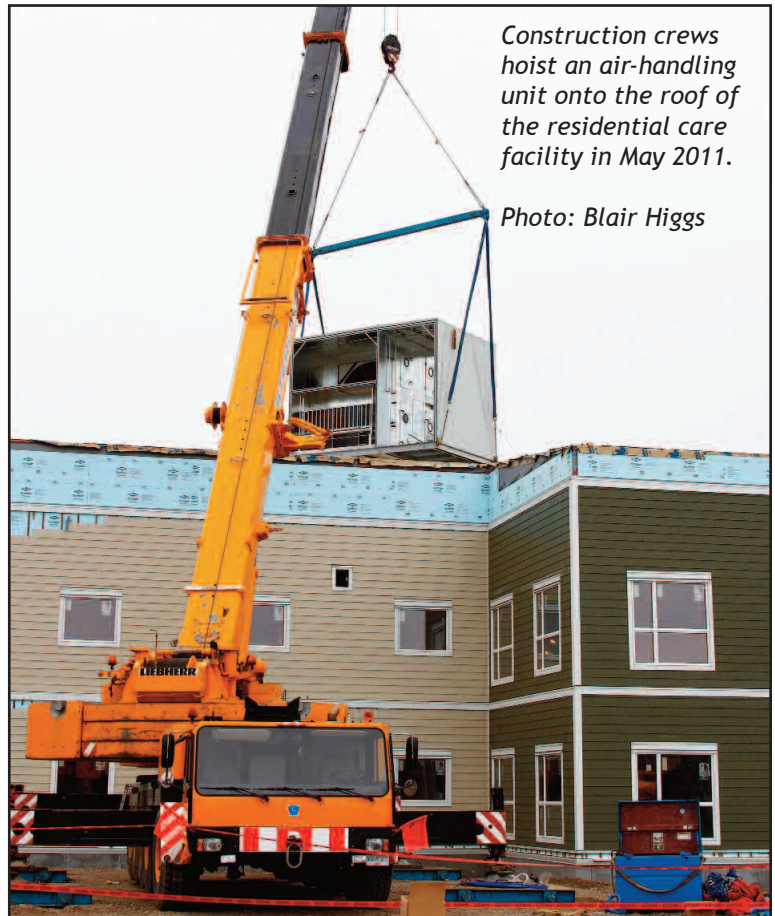
Brule confirmed that, to date, all laundry equipment, lights for the birthing and exam rooms, the surgical sinks, the macerators and racks for the bedpans and urinals have been received. However, she noted that much of the installation equipment required for in-ceiling mounting to support structures – such as lights and booms for the operating rooms – won't be delivered until much later in the process.

In the meantime, equipment is being stored in newly-leased warehouse space, which will be the site used for extensive testing and commissioning work on the technical medical equipment.

Added Brule: "I have never had a \$24-million dollar shopping list before; now I know what something like that looks like!" ●

This newsletter is published by the Project Management Team of the Fort St. John Hospital and Residential Care Project.

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Construction crews hoist an air-handling unit onto the roof of the residential care facility in May 2011.

Photo: Blair Higgs

## Foundation conducts fundraiser

The Fort St. John Hospital Foundation is working to secure equipment for the new hospital, says Ashley Bentley, executive director for the organization.

"The foundation currently has the 'Lend Your Hand' Campaign which is raising money for a digital mammography machine, seven wireless fetal heart monitors, 55 vitals monitors, and seven treatment chairs for the hemodialysis centre," she said.

"The goal for all the equipment is \$1.2 million – raised to date is just over \$563,000."



Ashley Bentley

Bentley said the foundation has been involved with the construction of the new hospital since the design process. The new office will be located in the hospital lobby, with space for four employees.

"Our community is very fortunate to have this new hospital. Having the latest technology here at home for our loved ones is very exciting," Bentley said. ●