



Fort St. John Hospital & Residential Care Project

An update from the Project Management Office
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Design phase wraps up, project moves to transition planning

The Northern Health (NH) team leading the design process for the Fort St. John Hospital and Residential Care Project is gearing up to celebrate the final sign-off on the design phase of the project.

Angela De Smit, NH Health Service Administrator in Fort St. John, says the team can now focus its efforts on transition planning as well as move management. This will consist of working through all the necessary steps for moving all departments, equipment and patients over to the new facility.

“The Fort St. John Hospital Foundation and the community have been very generous over the years to ensure that our facility is equipped with new technology and equipment,” says De Smit.



Artist's rendering of colour schemes and signage in new health care facility. See “Wayfinding”, page 2.

Ross Gaehring, the Clinical Lead, Planning and Transition, Residential Care, says everyone who has been part of the collaborative team involved in the design process deserves recognition and praise. “The design process has been a very intensive, user-driven exercise which has ensured that the final design is

really reflective of clinical best practice,” he says.

For at least one team member, Viva Swanson, Clinical Lead for Acute Care Planning and Transition, the approaching design sign-off is a little nerve-racking.

“What’s really scary right now is we’ve used our expertise and done the best we can with the information with which we’ve been provided,” she says. “You just pray that you’ve made all the right decisions along the way.”

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Transition planning the next step for hospital project

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“So many users have been involved in this process that you really hope that it turns out,” adds Swanson. “Plus, of course, we have to stick to our budget because in a P3 process, the affordability ceiling has already been decided.”

Tom Sparrow, Project Director, notes that approximately \$127 million of the project’s \$300-million budget has now been spent, with the facility now half-completed, on time and on budget.

“We’re very lean and relying on people to be very competent, very proactive and very much team-oriented,” says Sparrow. “And we want to maintain an optimistic and energized approach right through to the end of the project.”

The team says several milestones have already been reached during

the project’s accelerated design-and-build process, including:

- The development of the NH Project Management Team to recruit and hire knowledgeable and skilled staff to ensure that the new facility will meet the current and future needs of Fort St. John and its surrounding communities;
- The decision to include the residential care facility adjacent to the hospital; and
- The development of the state-of-the-art birthing centre, located in the southeast area of the facility, which is slated for completion by March 2011.

De Smit says the project has been a valuable learning experience for the health care team. “We have ensured that staff and physicians have been involved all through design. The

designs of various departments have been posted throughout the facility and staff encouraged to provide input as they will be working in this facility as well,” she says, adding that a webcam, community meetings and information posted in elevators are keeping staff and the public informed on the project.

Swanson says the Fort St. John project will be “a crown jewel” in the health care field. ●

The Fort St. John Hospital and Residential Care Project is a public-private partnership (P3) between Northern Health and ISL Health, a leading infrastructure investment group in the United Kingdom. Northern Health will own the site and facilities for the duration of the agreement, and provide all health care services; ISL will provide all building maintenance services under a long-term agreement.

Provincial dignitaries tour hospital construction site



B.C.’s Minister Responsible for Housing, Rich Coleman (left), toured the hospital and residential care construction site on November 4, 2010, with Project Director Tom Sparrow (centre) and Pat Pimm (right), MLA for Peace River North.

Wayfinding team uses intuitive design tactics

The directional signs, colour schemes and flooring for the new Fort St. John health care project are being chosen to enable people of all ages to navigate their way through the facility quickly and easily.

Betty Morris, NH Chief Operating Officer for the Northeast Health Services Delivery Area, says the project’s wayfinding working group has used ideas from shopping malls and the Vancouver International Airport. “The whole point of our discussion is how do we create buildings that have intuitive design that gets you where you need to go,” she says.

The new facility will include such features as:

- Direct access to the emergency department, birthing centre and residential care;
- Elder-friendly levered door handles and faucets to allow for easy usage by people with arthritis; and
- Signage and door numbers that are colour-specific for individual departments. ●

High-quality facility will attract new area businesses, residents

Jane Lindstrom, NH Vice-President, Human Resources and Corporate Services, says the Fort St. John Hospital and Residential Care Project will provide Northern Health and its member municipalities with a facility that is designed and equipped for the way quality care is provided in the 21st century –thanks to the design input provided by local clinicians.

“As a result, we will have operating rooms, labour delivery suites, patient rooms and residential care rooms that have been designed according to the way care is provided in that particular service area,” says Lindstrom.

“This important step will increase the safety for our patients, residents and staff, and will also improve the work design for staff.”

Lindstrom says her NH responsibilities were recently broadened

to include Corporate Services, which encompasses Capital Planning and Projects.



(Left to right) Finlay Sinclair, NH Director, Business Development; Jane Lindstrom, NH Vice-President, Human Resources and Corporate Services; Paul Sawyer, Design and Construction Manager, Partnerships BC.

She visited the Fort St. John construction site in the summer and says she’s pleased with the progress of the health care project.

She notes that not only is it on time and on budget, but also reiterates

how the “wonderful work” done by clinicians was critical to the fine-tuning of the project’s final design. She says she believes staff will take similar care in selecting the project’s décor elements.

“The facility is designed to a gold standard for energy use to blend with its environment,” adds Lindstrom. “The site will also enhance the support for medical students, provide a patient simulator that can be used by a wide number of health professionals, and offer increased capacity for teaching and research.”

Such factors, says Lindstrom, will attract individuals and businesses who may be considering relocating to the area. “A modern health facility attracts health professionals; quality health service delivery is integral to decisions for potential businesses and new members of the communities,” she says. ●

Community meeting draws 20 for hospital project update



Tom Sparrow (left), Project Director, Fort St. John Hospital and Residential Care Project, speaks at the community meeting held Sept. 30, 2010, at the Fort St. John hospital boardroom. Approximately 20 people were at the update session.

Other speakers included Betty Morris, NH Chief Operating Officer, Northeast Health Services Delivery Area; Angela De Smit, NH Health Services Administrator; Dave Callahan, NH Residential Care Program Manager; and Victor Shopland, Director of Infrastructure and Capital Works, City of Fort St. John.

Shopland discussed future development plans for city-owned land located directly north of the new hospital site. ●

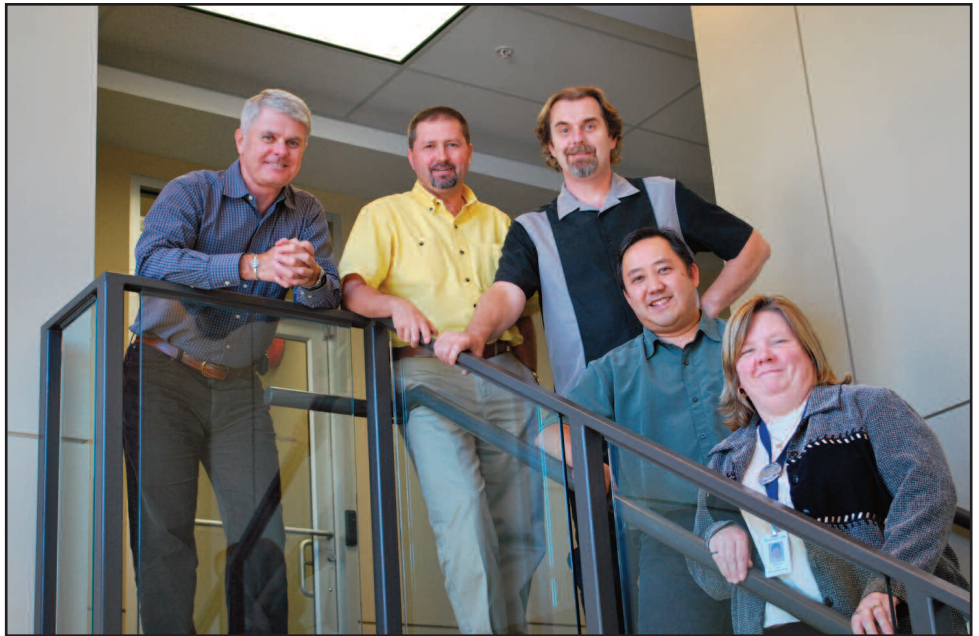
NH buyer works to equip new Fort St. John health care facility

As the buyer for NH projects, Bonnie Tapanila is the go-to person on the Fort St. John Hospital and Residential Care Project.

“My responsibilities are to assist in purchasing the right equipment at the right time for the right value,” she says. “I make recommendations as to what should be purchased, and run procurement processes such as requests for proposals.”

Tapanila recently purchased the laundry room equipment, operating room lights and equipment booms. Her next focus will be to procure equipment and supplies for the maternity department, intensive care unit and operating rooms, including minor surgical lights.

Approximately \$25.2 million will be spent on the project’s clinical equipment. ●



(Left to right): Tom Sparrow, Project Director, Fort St. John Hospital and Residential Care Project; Paul Sawyer, Design and Construction Manager, Partnerships BC; Matt Carter, NH Team Leader, Project Portfolio Management, Information and Technology Services; Francis Keong, NH Regional Manager, Biomedical Engineering; and Bonnie Tapanila, NH Buyer, Projects. All were at a recent equipment procurement meeting in Prince George.



The Health Authority Infrastructure Planning Council toured the hospital construction site on September 30, 2010.

Did you know?

Angela De Smit, NH Health Service Administrator in Fort St. John, lists just a few of the benefits that will be realized by Northern Health and its member municipalities when the hospital and residential care project is completed.

The benefits include:

- Enhanced ability to retain and recruit staff and specialists to the North;
- Increased residential care beds from 87 to 123, which will reduce the number of times that community members have to leave Fort St. John in order to access residential care services;
- Two designated palliative care beds in the residential care facility to enhance community palliation for those who require additional supports; and
- Space in the emergency room increased by two-thirds, which will assist with the flow through the department. ●

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

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