



Queen Charlotte/Haida Gwaii Hospital Replacement Project

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Construction proceeds with design drawings finalized

The Queen Charlotte/Haida Gwaii Hospital Replacement Project is up and running again, with the final design drawings being prepared by Bouygues Building Canada (BBC), the project's design-build contractor.

Removal of topsoil at the project site came to a temporary halt in fall 2013 when BBC workers discovered naturally-occurring arsenic in the topsoil.

However, the Ministry of Environment gave the project the go-ahead for safe soil removal on January 20, 2014, after precautionary testing of the on-site soil determined that it carries the same amount of naturally-occurring arsenic as other soil in B.C.'s northwest region.

"The public should feel confident that this soil sampling shows it is standard across the island and in the northwest," said Dr. Charl Badenhorst, Northern Health

Medical Health Officer. "There are areas in Canada that have varying levels of naturally occurring arsenic. Overall, naturally occurring arsenic poses a low risk to public health."



The construction site of the new Queen Charlotte/Haida Gwaii Hospital Replacement Project, foreground, is located to the rear of the existing hospital in Queen Charlotte City. Photo: Kerry Laidlaw

Project Director Peter Kallos said the hospital's design phase/drawings are now in their final stage of production.

"In three separate workshops commencing in August, and concluding mid-November, Northern Health worked with local and regional staff to ensure earlier planning work remained relevant," said Kallos.

"These sessions proved our earlier planning was accurate, and the final drawings are now being prepared."

To date, the hospital replacement site has been hoarded all around; existing structures have been demolished; entrance roads have been created; services have been relocated; and BBC is arranging contracts, aligning the sub-trades, and procuring supplies. The \$50-million facility, funded by the Province of B.C. and North West Regional Hospital District, is scheduled to open in fall 2015. •

Watching the new hospital take shape:

A message from Penny Anguish – Chief Operating Officer, Northwest

The year 2014 will be exciting for the construction of the new Queen Charlotte/Haida Gwaii Hospital Replacement Project. It will include many milestones as the project moves toward an opening date of fall 2015.

Before looking ahead, it is important to celebrate the project's successes through 2013. In June, Bouygues Building Canada (BBC), in partnership with Perkins+Will and JR Architecture, was named the design-builder for the new facility. The official design of the facility was celebrated with the community in late June and was followed by an official groundbreaking ceremony with Health Minister Terry Lake in July.

In anticipation of the new facility, staff in the Queen Charlotte Islands Health Clinic moved to their new location

in the City Centre Building in August, and the old health clinic was demolished in September. Staff and physicians are adjusting well to their temporary space. The temporary morgue and workshop were also built in the summer and the trailers that supported these services have been removed from the site.



The old Queen Charlotte Islands Health Clinic is demolished. Photo: Kerry Laidlaw

In 2014, the facility will begin to come to life. BBC will bring a crane onto the island to help build the new facility. Structural steel and other building materials will also be brought to the site to create the building's framework.

We're very excited to share these key milestones with you throughout 2014!

For up-to-date information on the project, please visit: <http://northernhealth.ca/AboutUs/CapitalProjects/QueenCharlotteHospitalProject.aspx> •

Staff profile: Talking with Gordon Horner

Welcome to our *Staff Profile* feature article.



Gordon Horner

In each newsletter, we will be profiling different staff members of the Queen Charlotte/Haida Gwaii Hospital Replacement Project. In this edition, we talk to Gordon Horner.

What is your position?

I'm a GP providing full service family practice, hospital and emergency care and outreach clinics to the people of the southern communities of Haida Gwaii. I'm also our local medical chief of staff for Haida Gwaii.

How long have you worked for NH and, specifically, in Haida Gwaii??

I came to work on Haida Gwaii within the first two years

after my residency, first as a temporary locum, then more frequently, and officially moving here in 2001. When Northern Health was created, I was already working and living on the islands.

What do you like most about working for Northern Health?

What drew me, beyond the infinite physical beauty of the place and the inspiration of the Haida people and their spiritual and cultural revival, was the sense of a diverse community that was willing to work through its differences and pull together for what really matters. In the health care community, there is a real sense that everyone has a voice, and is working together to make health care in a very remote and challenging setting as good as possible for all their fellow islanders.

What are you most excited about with the new facility?

The improved physical space to provide sensitive, confidential care will be greatly appreciated, as will the labour and delivery suite and palliative care space that will allow much more comfortable and culturally appropriate care. It will also be exciting to have so many great colleagues together under one roof! •