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Interior Health to update Vernon Jubilee Hospital master site plan

With the one-year anniversary of the opening of Polson Tower at Vernon Jubilee Hospital fast-approaching, and the recent announcement on planning for additional hospital beds, it's now time to update the hospital's master site plan.

"There's been a great deal of change at Vernon Jubilee Hospital since the 2006 Master Plan," said Eric Foster, MLA Vernon-Monashee. "With the opening of Polson Tower we need to take a fresh look at how to guide future growth and direction at Vernon Jubilee Hospital."

An updated master site plan will reflect the final configuration of the Polson Tower and other capital projects underway now, for example the expansion of the McMurtry-Baerg Cancer Centre. The intent of the updated plan is to provide a framework for the future development and growth of the programs that did not move into Polson Tower, including the potential for new programs, and how best to utilize the remaining space at the site.

"A new master site plan is needed in light of recent improvements and building investments at VJH," said Norman Embree, Interior Health Board Chair. "The planning process gives us the opportunity to review population and demographic projections for the North Okanagan to ensure we continue having the right programs and services available when needed."

The process starts with a request for proposals (RFP) to provide master planning consulting services. The RFP is posted on the BC Bid website (www.bcbid.gov.bc.ca). The consultant will develop a comprehensive site plan for VJH out to the fiscal year 2027/28. The work includes site and program research, facilitating stakeholder discussions, producing master plan documents, and producing conceptual design layouts among other requirements.

"Interior Health appreciates that the community cares a great deal about its hospital," added Embree. "The master site planning process will ensure stakeholders are included in the discussions on the future growth and direction of VJH."

Some of the elements that guide the development of a master site plan include parking requirements, and flexibility for future expansion for programs and their associated demands on the site. The plan will align with Interior Health's vision and mission statements, offer realistic deliverables and timelines, and align with the City of Vernon's Official Community Plan.

"Our hospital has come a long way over the years, and I'm excited to see what the next 15 years will bring," added Foster.

The RFP closes on September 18, 2012. Interior Health anticipates awarding the successful proposal by the end of September with completion of the updated Master Site Plan in December.

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