

For Immediate Release | September 17, 2014

RFQ release for new patient care tower at Penticton Regional Hospital

A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was released today as the first step in selecting a qualified team to design, build, finance, and maintain the new patient care tower at Penticton Regional Hospital (PRH).

“Just a few weeks ago we announced approval of the business plan for a new patient care tower at PRH,” said Health Minister Terry Lake. “And already we’ve reached the first important milestone in this exciting project in the South Okanagan-Similkameen.”

Premier Christy Clark announced the Penticton Regional Hospital Project on July 30, at an event in Penticton. The project includes two phases. Phase one is construction of the new patient care tower which will include an ambulatory care centre, surgical services centre, 84 medical/surgical inpatient beds in single patient rooms, a new medical device reprocessing unit, and space for the UBC Faculty of Medicine program. The tower will be approximately 26,700 square metres (287,500 square feet). Phase two involves the renovation of vacated areas in the current hospital, including increasing the size of the emergency department to nearly four times its current size.

“The release of the RFQ is a preliminary step towards what will be an economic surge for Penticton,” said Dan Ashton, Penticton MLA. “Not only will there be direct construction-related jobs created for the project, but the trickle-down will also positively affect sectors like retail and entertainment.”

The project is expected to create more than 1,910 direct and indirect jobs for workers over the life of the project.

The competitive selection process begins with the RFQ which invites teams to indicate their interest in and qualifications for phase one of the patient care tower project. Respondent teams shortlisted during the RFQ process will then be invited to participate in the next stage of the process, the Request for Proposals (RFP) stage. Interior Health expects to choose a preferred proponent by late 2015 and sign a contract shortly thereafter. It is anticipated construction will start in 2016, and the new patient care tower would open in 2019.

“The start of any major project is always an exciting time and today is no different,” said Norman Embree, Interior Health board chair. “Today we are embarking on a journey to provide the best possible health-care facility that will meet the needs of the region for decades to come.”

The total budget for the project is \$325 million. It will be funded jointly by the provincial government, with \$122 million provided by the Okanagan-Similkameen Regional Hospital District and \$20 million provided by the South Okanagan Similkameen Medical Foundation.

“I am extremely proud of the vision demonstrated by the Regional Hospital District in working to secure the new patient care tower for our citizens in the South Okanagan and Similkameen,” said Janice Perrino, RHD chair. “We are excited to see what comes of the competitive selection process, and we are looking forward to working with whoever emerges as the successful proponent.”

The competitive selection process is being managed by Partnerships BC. The RFQ is available at www.bcbid.ca, and closes on Nov. 6 2014.

Interior Health is committed to promoting healthy lifestyles and providing a wide range of quality health-care services to more than 742,000 people living across B.C.'s vast interior. For more information on this project, visit www.buildingpatientcare.ca, or follow us on Twitter [@Interior_Health](https://twitter.com/Interior_Health).

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