

Royal Inland Hospital – Site Update

December 15, 2015

Clinical Services Building – Reaching new milestones

Royal Inland Hospital's new Clinical Services Building (CSB) continues to take shape and is on track to open to patients in summer 2016. With exterior work nearly complete, the building is transforming into a modern health-care facility and parking structure. On Sept. 25, the pedestrian bridge link was installed, connecting the CSB to the existing hospital and ensuring access for patients to all services within RIH. The roof is also nearing completion – another important milestone, as it will allow design-builder Bird Construction to turn to the interior finishes. You will also notice a change to the Kamloops skyline – this week, the tower crane that has been such an important part of the construction work will begin to come down. This will allow for the completion of the retail storefront area on Columbia Street.

Work has also begun on readying the Clinical Services Building for patients. Interior Health has retained Health Care Relocation (HCR), a well-known hospital relocation company that worked with IH on past projects such as Vernon's Polson Tower and Kelowna's Centennial Building as well as the Interior Heart and Surgical Centre. HCR will work with teams from all RIH departments affected by the move, to ensure that people, equipment and building systems are ready to welcome our first patients next summer. The CSB will enhance access to RIH for those who use the hospital's outpatient services such as IV therapy, neurodiagnostics, community respiratory therapy and laboratory. The CSB will also add about 350 new parking stalls to the hospital, which will help alleviate some of our parking challenges. And, there will be expanded clinical education space for the UBC Faculty of Medicine's medical programs.

Access to the hospital

As work continues, there will continue to be temporary, intermittent road closures near the construction site. This week, watch for lane closures along Columbia Street to accommodate the work of dismantling the tower crane. Appropriate signage and flagging personnel will be on site as needed when these closures occur, and there will still be access to the hospital for all health-care needs.

Patient Care Tower – Planning continues

On July 10, 2015, Health Minister Terry Lake announced the beginning of planning for a patient care tower, the next phase of redevelopment at RIH. Developing the business plan for a new patient care tower includes analysis of health services needs and delivery options, the project's scope, procurement plan, and a funding analysis. Since Minister Lake's announcement, contracts for mechanical, electrical/IMIT, and architectural team were awarded to WSP Canada Inc. (mechanical & electrical/IMIT) and to IBI Group Architects (architectural). Also, user group sessions have begun and geotechnical investigations have been completed. Interior Health expects to complete the business plan by the end of 2016, at which time it would be submitted to the Ministry of Health for consideration.

For more information on construction at RIH, visit www.buildingpatientcare.ca.

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