
NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Health

FUNDING ALLOCATED FOR NEW SURREY OUTPATIENT HOSPITAL

SURREY – The provincial government has approved capital funding for the Surrey Outpatient Hospital at Green Timbers, announced Health Minister George Abbott today.

“This new hospital will provide patients undergoing day surgeries with more timely care and will free up capacity at Surrey Memorial Hospital for patients who need inpatient care,” said Abbott. “This is part of our commitment to provide quality patient care to residents of the fastest-growing region of the province.”

The Surrey Outpatient Hospital will provide a full range of scheduled outpatient services including day surgery, diagnostic imaging, express testing, medical clinic and rehabilitation. The outpatient hospital will include a primary health-care clinic to deliver enhanced family practice services.

Clinics for patients with chronic diseases such as congestive heart failure, asthma, diabetes, and other debilitating illnesses will also be co-located to the new outpatient hospital. Surrey Memorial Hospital currently handles almost 134,000 outpatient clinic visits and performs 94,300 outpatient diagnostic procedures per year. These numbers are expected to grow by nearly 60 per cent by 2020.

“As medical and health-care technology and practice improves, more and more procedures are done on an outpatient basis,” said Dr. Tony Taylor, VP Quality and Patient Safety for Fraser Health. “Fifteen years ago, a gall bladder surgery required more than a week’s stay in a hospital bed. Today, that procedure is a day surgery – it is done on an outpatient basis – the patient has the surgery and is able to go home the same day.”

Fraser Health will pursue the project as a public-private partnership where a private sector consortium will design, build, finance and maintain the facility. Today, a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was posted on BC Bid by Partnerships BC on behalf of Fraser Health. RFQs are used to invite public private consortiums to participate in the project and be considered to progress to the Request for Proposal stage.

The project capital cost is currently estimated at \$151 million, based on a pre-design cost estimate. Construction is expected to commence in 2008 after completion of tendering and finalization of costs, with completion expected in early 2010 – as determined through a recently conducted detailed architectural and programming analysis.

All health services will be funded by the public sector through Fraser Health, in keeping with the Canada Health Act.

“With today’s heated construction market putting pressure on construction budgets, taxpayers will receive greater financial protection through a public-private partnership model,” added Abbott. “The health sector has already seen the benefits of a public-private partnership with the on time, on budget completion of the Gordon and Leslie Diamond Health Care Centre in Vancouver and the construction of the new Abbotsford Regional Hospital and Cancer Centre.”

The Surrey Outpatient Hospital is one part of the Surrey Health Services Capacity Initiative (SHSCI), a comprehensive plan to reduce congestion problems at Surrey Memorial Hospital as well as accommodate significant projected population growth. In addition to today’s announcement of the funding allocation for the Surrey Outpatient Hospital, the provincial government has taken several actions to improve health care in Surrey and throughout the Fraser Valley:

- Construction of the new Abbotsford Regional Hospital and Cancer Centre for residents of the Fraser Valley;
- Opened a new \$4.8-million Minor Treatment Centre at Surrey Memorial to relieve ER congestion by treating more than 80 patients a day;
- Opened a 20-bed, sub-acute unit in Surrey to care for patients either preparing to return home or move into residential care; and
- Opened 10 new hospice beds and 18 additional acute geriatric beds in Surrey.

Future plans to improve health care in Surrey include:

- A new, state-of-the-art Emergency Room and urgent care facility to triple existing floor space at Surrey Memorial Hospital;
- A new regional perinatal care facility at Surrey Memorial Hospital;
- Approximately 67 new acute and critical care beds by 2007/08;
- 12 new renal stations in 2009; and
- 250 new residential care beds built by the end of 2008.

The funding for the outpatient hospital is included the Province’s three-year \$2.1-billion health capital plan.

The Surrey Outpatient Hospital request for qualifications and project brief are available online at www.bcbid.gov.bc.ca.

Media contact: Marisa Adair
Communications Director
Ministry of Health
250 920-8500
250 952-1889

Jennifer Davies
Director, Communications and Government
Relations
Partnerships BC
604 660-0946

Fraser Health Communications
604 450-7881 (pager)

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