

**For immediate release  
June 9, 2015**

## **Design of Whitehorse General Hospital expansion unveiled**



***An artist rendering illustrates the conceptual design of the two-storey hospital wing to be built at Whitehorse General Hospital.***

Whitehorse – Yukoners got a first look today at the Whitehorse General Hospital (WGH) Expansion. Yukon Premier Darrell Pasloski was joined by Yukon Hospitals' Board of Trustees Chair Craig Tuton and the project's design-build partner PCL Constructors Westcoast Inc. (PCL) as the conceptual design was unveiled at the ground breaking ceremony for the state-of-the-art two-storey hospital wing.

"The Yukon government is committed to investing in and delivering quality health facilities, programs and services for the territory," said Pasloski. "The expansion of Whitehorse General Hospital unveiled today represents the latest delivery on our commitment to health care innovations and technologies that will support the very best acute care for all Yukoners."

"Yukoners are already seeing the benefits from phase one of the hospital's expansion through the successful introduction of a new MRI program," said Health and Social Services Minister Mike Nixon. "Thanks to the efforts of the community, the hospital and the government, we are able to provide more advanced health care here in the territory. This latest expansion will result in further improvements to services and care for Yukoners."

For the next phase of expansion, PCL was selected with partner CEI Architecture as the preferred proponent last month and has recently finalized a design-build partnership agreement with the Yukon Hospital Corporation to deliver the project, which includes a new emergency department, shelled second-floor for future use and other facility enhancements.

"Showcasing the initial design for the community is an exciting moment as it brings the project one step closer to reality as we work toward completion in late 2017," said Tuton. "Over the coming weeks, we will work toward completing the design development phase and start the first phase of construction, which includes preparing the site for next year when the building will take shape."

Yukon Hospitals' CEO Jason Bilsky added the expanded hospital's modernized patient care areas will enable health care providers to support a more positive patient experience in a comfortable and safe environment that will ultimately improve outcomes. "We are really looking forward to seeing the design brought to life over the next two and a half years," he said.

A second business-to-business networking session will be held June 10 in Whitehorse, building on a successful event last December, to give local contractors and service providers another opportunity to promote their businesses directly to PCL.

The total value of the hospital expansion is estimated to be up to \$72 million, which also includes the construction of the MRI facility. The project is funded by Yukon government.

-30-

Contact:

James Low  
Communications, Yukon Hospitals  
(867) 393-8698  
[james.low@wgh.yk.ca](mailto:james.low@wgh.yk.ca)

Elaine Schiman  
Cabinet Communications  
(867) 633-7961  
[elaine.schiman@gov.yk.ca](mailto:elaine.schiman@gov.yk.ca)

Pat Living  
Communications, Health and Social Services  
(867) 667-3673  
[patricia.living@gov.yk.ca](mailto:patricia.living@gov.yk.ca)

## Whitehorse General Hospital Expansion Backgrounder

The expanded hospital was officially announced in July 2014 after \$72 million in funding for the project was approved by Yukon government. The project includes:

- a new emergency department and shelled second-floor space for future use – all designed to better deliver care and meet today's standards in patient safety and comfort, infection control and security.
- improvements to WGH's power infrastructure to support expansion along with a new data centre to provide information systems for patient care.
- relocation of key diagnostic imaging equipment such as CT scanner and X-ray closer to the new emergency department.
- relocation of the ambulance station from its current site by WGH to a new building nearby on Hospital Road.
- construction of a new MRI facility that was opened in January 2015.

PCL Constructors Westcoast Inc. and design partner CEI Architecture was selected to be the design-build partner after a competitive selection process.

- PCL is a group of independent construction companies that carries out work nationally and internationally – making it Canada's largest contracting organization with services that include preconstruction, construction/project management, design-build and general contracting.
- PCL has a long history in Canada's North, building schools, hospitals and commercial buildings; roads and runways; power plants, dams and bridges in NWT and Yukon. Locally, PCL was a builder on the Canada Games Centre and the last enhancements to WGH in the mid-1990s.
- PCL and CEI have worked collaboratively on a number of design-build health care projects, most recently completing the Lakes District Hospital and Healthcare Centre in Burns Lake—a remote BC community, approximately 1000 km north of Vancouver.
- a design-build approach leveraged private sector competition, innovation and expertise, while ensuring cost and schedule certainty. The hospital will maintain ownership and operation of the expanded facility.
- Partnerships BC is supporting the hospital's delivery of this project through the sharing of its advice, expertise, procurement and project management best practices.
- a fairness advisor has reviewed the RFP process and found that the evaluation met the criteria of fairness, openness, transparency and integrity. The advisor's report was included with the recommendation of award to the YHC Board of Trustees for approval.

Construction will begin this summer with site preparations for next year when the new structure will begin to take shape.

- The design process is expected to be finalized by the end of fall of this year.
- Anticipated completion of hospital expansion is late fall 2017.

**More information about the WGH Expansion Project is available at**  
[www.yukonhospitals.ca/wghexpansion](http://www.yukonhospitals.ca/wghexpansion)