

Cancer Clinic Gets Boost

By [250 News](#)

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Architectural rendering of Northern Cancer Center

PRINCE GEORGE - The implementation of the Northern Cancer Control Strategy took a major step forward today with the release of the request for proposals for the BC Cancer Agency Centre for the North in Prince George.

The Northern Cancer Control Strategy includes:

- * BC Cancer Agency Centre for the North: two linear accelerators, used in the delivery of radiation therapy treatment; one computerized-tomography (CT) simulator; a chemotherapy treatment unit including 11 treatment stations; a pharmacy; general outpatient clinics; and professional staff offices;
- * Renovations to Prince George Regional Hospital to accommodate a new six-bed oncology unit; an expansion of pathology, laboratory and diagnostic imaging services; and additional support and office space;
- * Enhancement of up to 11 Northern Health sites in communities outside of Prince George, including new community cancer clinics opened in Quesnel and Vanderhoof;
- * The acquisition of new equipment and information technology, such as telehealth capability, at these sites to accommodate expansion of community cancer clinics.

Renovation at the Prince George Regional Hospital to expand the Diagnostic Imaging and Laboratory will start in summer 2009.

Construction of the BC Cancer Agency Centre for the North will start in the fall of 2009. The completion target for the entire project is 2012.

The facility is being pursued as a public private partnership. All health services will be funded by the Province of British Columbia through the Provincial Health Services Authority, the BC Cancer Agency, and Northern Health, in keeping with the Canada Health Act.

"The Fraser Fort George Regional Hospital District is pleased to be supporting the Northern Cancer Control Strategy with the contribution of \$4 million for upgrades to Prince George Regional Hospital," said FFGRHD chair Stephanie Killam.

The annual number of new cancer diagnoses in the north is projected to reach approximately 1,288 cases by 2015.

"The programs, services and networks that will be made possible by the Northern Cancer Control Strategy will not only deliver state-of-the-art cancer care, they will help to reduce the impact of cancer before it begins, by encouraging healthier lifestyles, and providing better access to cancer screening across the north," said Brian Schmidt, BCCA interim president

When completed, the BC Cancer Agency Centre for the North will become the sixth regional cancer centre in British Columbia.

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