

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 24, 2009

**Regional Hospital District Commits \$4 Million to Support Cancer Care in Northern BC**

**PRINCE GEORGE, BC**

The Fraser Fort George Regional Hospital District committed to investing up to \$4 million to support the construction of the BC Cancer Agency Centre for the North.

While funding for the construction of the BC Cancer Agency Centre for the North will come from the Province, Northern Health has said that renovations required at PGRH to support the cancer centre are expected to be up to \$10 million. Directors with the Fraser-Fort George Regional Hospital District voted to provide up to 40% of those renovation costs.

The funding will be used to help cover costs of renovations, clinical equipment and site servicing required at Prince George Regional Hospital such as six inpatient beds for oncology, renovations in the lab to accommodate the additional work the lab will be taking on, additional space and equipment needs for diagnostic imaging and upgrades to the physical plant building so it can service both the hospital and the BC Cancer Agency.

Regional Hospital District Chair Stephanie Killam says the Fraser Fort George Regional Hospital District is in full support of cancer services being provided at PGRH. "We recognize this as an important investment in the health of those living in the North. The BC Cancer Agency Centre for the North will have a significant impact on the lives of those dealing with cancer and their families," says Killam.

"The upgrades to PGRH are an essential component of the Northern Cancer Control Strategy and to the development of the BC Cancer Agency Centre for the North," said Dr. Charles Jago, chair of the Northern Health Board. "The financial commitment by the Fraser Fort George Regional Hospital District continues a strong partnership with Northern Health as we create the services needed in the North for people living with cancer."

The construction of the BC Cancer Agency's Centre for the North is a joint initiative undertaken by the Provincial Health Services Authority, BC Cancer Agency and Northern Health. Construction of the new centre is targeted to start in late 2010, with an estimated completion goal of 2012.

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