

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Regional Hospital District Invests \$1.6 Million to Fund  
Capital Projects at Northern Health**

The Fraser-Fort George Regional Hospital District is investing \$1.6 million dollars to fund capital projects for Northern Health. The funds come in the way of a \$1 million global grant for 2009 for minor capital projects and three other capital projects valued at just over \$600,000.

The \$1 million global grant will be used to pay for a variety of medical equipment for hospitals and health facilities in Prince George, Mackenzie, McBride and Valemount.

In addition to the \$1 million global grant, the Regional Hospital District approved just over \$600,000 for Health Link North Project (\$334,000), an improved clinical information system that integrates patient information from a variety of sources including radiology, pharmacy, lab, admitting and emergency. It will also support a second endoscopy room at PGRH (\$61,678) and Rad Room 6 at PGRH (\$232,000) which will provide a new digital radiographic unit for trauma patients. These investments cover 40% of the total cost of the projects.

“The Fraser-Fort George Regional Hospital District is extremely proud of the role it plays in providing strategic funding to improve the delivery of health services in our region,” says Regional Hospital District Chairman Stephanie Killam. “Since 2005, we have invested \$15.8 million to support minor and major capital such as the Maternal-Child Centre of Excellence at PGRH and other significant building improvements at health facilities throughout the Fraser-Fort George region.

Earlier this year, the Regional Hospital District committed up to \$4 million for renovations required at PGRH to support the BC Cancer Agency Centre for the North. “This Regional Hospital District is making a significant investment in health services in our region, which will provide for better healthcare for the residents,” says Dave Wilbur, Fraser-Fort George Regional Hospital District Acting Chair.

The Regional Hospital District was incorporated in 1967 and shares the same geographic boundaries as the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George (RDFFG). The directors of the RDFFG are also the directors of the Regional Hospital District, however, it is a separate and distinct corporation. The primary function of the Regional Hospital District has been to share in the capital expenses of Northern Health’s health care facilities and medical equipment within the Regional Hospital District boundary.

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