

July 5, 2011

Construction firm selected for Medicine Hat hospital redevelopment

Edmonton... The Government of Alberta has selected Stuart Olson Dominion Construction Ltd. to manage the construction of the \$200-million redevelopment of the Medicine Hat Regional Hospital.

"We are making progress with consultation and planning as the architects and project team continues its work, but for many people progress is most tangible when they see heavy equipment and workers on an active construction site," said Ray Danyluk, Minister of Infrastructure. "With the selection of the construction management firm, I am pleased to report that this is exactly the phase we are entering."

"Our Health Capital Plan, which complements our 5-Year Health Action Plan, is the most aggressive approach to health infrastructure planning in Canada," said Gene Zwozdesky, Minister of Health and Wellness. "We are increasing access, reducing wait-times, and continuing to build the best-performing publicly funded health system in Canada."

"This is a significant milestone for the redevelopment of our hospital," said Rob Renner, Minister of Environment and MLA for Medicine Hat. "I am excited that the construction phase has finally arrived, and I look forward to continuing to work with both health professionals and members of our community over the remaining phases of the project."

One of the first steps for the construction manager will be to meet with the project's architects, the joint venture of Gibbs Gage/Diamond and Schmitt, to review planning and initial design work. By September, the contractor will mobilize on site to start the demolition of the Medicine Hat Regional Hospital's west wing. The wing has been vacated due to its current condition.

The design and consultation process began in March and will continue until early 2012. The project will be brought on-stream in phases starting in 2013, with completion and turnover to Alberta Health Services anticipated in 2015.

Stuart Olson Dominion Construction Ltd. brings extensive hospital renovation experience. They have been responsible for the construction of several health facility projects, including the 2005 Peter Lougheed Hospital Expansion; the Fort St. John Hospital; the Lethbridge Cancer Center; and the Red Deer Hospital renovation. Stuart Olson Dominion Construction Ltd. has over 70 years construction experience in western Canada.

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Backgrounder: Medicine Hat hospital redevelopment details

Media inquiries may be directed to:

Paul Michna
Alberta Infrastructure Communications
780-422-1173

James Frey
Senior Communications Advisor
Alberta Health Services
403-388-6313

To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

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Medicine Hat hospital redevelopment details

- The Medicine Hat Regional Hospital redevelopment project will expand available ambulatory care space (medical care delivered on an outpatient basis, where patients receive treatment on the same day). Construction of the new ambulatory care wing will include services such as renal dialysis, an emergency department and ambulance bay, surgical suite, and maternal child and neonatal intensive care.
- The project will also include the addition of flexible space that will be used for specialized clinics, such as urology, neurology, orthopedics, ophthalmology and bariatrics.
- Redevelopment work will also focus on the regional hospital's west wing, built in 1957, and the acute care wings, built in 1985.
- The Construction Management Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued to firms short-listed through the Request for Qualifications process on May 25, and closed June 7. Functional programming is expected to be completed mid-summer 2011.
- Alberta Infrastructure is using a construction management approach for the Medicine Hat redevelopment project. This is a team-based collaborative approach in which the construction manager works closely with the architects from an early phase in the project.
- A construction management approach allows the project managers, clients, architects and the construction manager to strike an early partnership in the process, and to identify potential issues and challenges prior to construction proceeding too far. The construction manager will also oversee all sub-trade tenders, including mechanical and electrical.
- Alberta Infrastructure is working closely with Alberta Health and Wellness and Alberta Health Services to ensure the facility meets the needs of the community and is constructed in a cost-effective manner.
- Alberta Infrastructure is providing technical and professional support to the project team, and is working with Alberta Health Services through a rigorous planning, design and commissioning process to ensure that the new facility meets the project objectives. The project team is also working closely with a clinical liaison from Alberta Health Services.

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