

## **Northern Cancer Control Strategy: NEWS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

June 29, 2011

### **Cancer centre construction hits labour peak**

The BC Cancer Agency Centre for the North reached its peak of construction labour in the month of June. On average, approximately 130 workers have been on the site each day over the past few weeks, the majority of whom are from the North.

“Northern companies and trades people have been a key part of the construction of the new BC Cancer Agency Centre for the North,” said Prince George - Valemount MLA Shirley Bond. “While the major focus of attention has been around improved cancer care and treatment we also need to recognize the important benefits like the work this project has provided for numerous northern companies and their employees.”

Ninety-three per cent of the total man-hours expended at the Centre for the North’s construction site to date have been from local workers. In addition, many local companies have been hired.

“Local trades have been contributing significantly to the construction of the cancer centre,” said Prince George-Mackenzie MLA Pat Bell. “Over three quarters of the total contract costs have been awarded to businesses in our region.”

Since the project was first initiated, a variety of local companies have worked on both the design and construction for the BC Cancer Agency Centre for the North. These include:

- Asphalt Paving: Pittman Asphalt
- Civil Consultant: L&M Engineering Limited
- Concrete Place & Finish (Horizontal): KVS Concrete Finishing Inc.
- Concrete Supply: Inland Concrete
- Electrical: Houle Electric (Prince George branch)
- Elevators: Venture Elevator
- Elevator Caissons: Cancor Rathole Inc.
- Environmental Consultant – Asbestos Pipe: Pacific Environmental
- Excavation, Backfill, Site Services: IDL Projects Inc.
- Formwork Inspections: Allnorth Consultants Limited
- Geotechnical Consultant: GeoNorth Engineering Ltd.
- Landscape Architect: Jay Lazzarin
- Landscaping: L&L Landscape and Design Inc.
- Masonry: Zettl Masonry
- Mechanical: Equity Plumbing & Heating Ltd.
- Miscellaneous Safety and Construction Equipment: Northern Industrial Sales
- Roofing/Waterproofing: Admiral Roofing
- Signage: Rocket Signs & Promotions
- Structural Steel Inspections: Accuren Group Inc.
- Structural Steel/Miscellaneous Metals/Metal Deck: Hart Iron
- Surveying: McElhanney Consulting Services Ltd

“We have really been able to benefit from the very strong local construction talent in the North,” said Mike Marasco, CEO of Plenary Health. “We would like to thank all of the workers and companies that have been part of this project so far for their efforts and contributions in building this new cancer centre.”

“Partnership is an important part of the Centre for the North,” said Brian Schmidt, interim president of the BC Cancer Agency, an agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority. “We look forward to ongoing links with local industry as we work to complete our new facility, as well as with Northern Health and its regional cancer clinics when we open the centre in late 2012.”

“The new BC Cancer Agency Centre for the North will provide our region with critical cancer services for the next several decades,” said Nechako Lakes MLA John Rustad. “Congratulations to all of our local workers who have contributed to a very important piece of history in our region which will impact generations to come.”

The Centre for the North is being delivered as a public-private partnership, which will ensure the project is delivered on time and budget. The BC Cancer Agency entered into a fixed-priced, performance-based agreement with the private partner Plenary Health to design, build, finance and maintain the centre for a term of 30 years. All clinical health services will be publicly funded and publicly provided in keeping with the principles of the Canada Health Act.

For more details on cancer care at the new centre, visit the BC Cancer Agency’s website at [www.bccancer.bc.ca](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca). For more information about the Centre for the North’s construction, please visit [www.centreforthenorth.plenaryprojects.com](http://www.centreforthenorth.plenaryprojects.com).

-30-

*The \$106 million Northern Cancer Control Strategy is a joint partnership between Northern Health, BC Cancer Agency and the Provincial Health Services Authority. It is focused on enhancing the continuum of cancer services in the North, including prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment, and supportive and palliative care.*

**Media contact:**

Northern Cancer Control Strategy – Sonya Kruger, Communications Specialist, 250 649 4873