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Pre-load starts this week for Clinical Support Building at KGH

Ground preparation of the land across from Kelowna General Hospital (KGH) along Pandosy Street will begin this week, in advance of the construction of the new Clinical Support Building. Peter Bros. Construction Ltd. of Kelowna has been awarded the contract to pre-load the site.

The Clinical Support Building will house laboratory and clinical support departments that will be moved from the existing hospital in preparation for the construction of the Interior Heart and Surgical Centre (IHSC), maintaining critical support services to be located next to the existing hospital.

“The awarding of this contract represents an important milestone on a project that will bring full cardiac services, a comprehensive surgical centre and a range of support services to patients throughout the Southern Interior,” said Norman Embree, Interior Health Board Chair.

The contract for the design and construction of the Clinical Support Building will be awarded later this year. Like many construction projects in Kelowna, it is important to pre-load the site in order to prepare the ground to withstand the added weight of the building. No building construction will take place on this site until building plans are approved by the City of Kelowna.

“As we prepare the site for construction, we will work with our neighbours, the City of Kelowna and the many clinical stakeholders to ensure their needs are addressed, within our overarching goal of improving patient care for everyone in the B.C. Interior,” said Joanne Konnert, Vice-President of Tertiary Services with Interior Health.

The Clinical Support Building is the first step in the construction of the estimated \$448 million IHSC, announced by Premier Gordon Campbell on January 25, 2010. The IHSC project includes the permanent cardiac centre within a new surgical services suite, a new cardiac catheterization lab, new inpatient units and extensive clinical support services. Taken together with the new patient care towers in Kelowna and Vernon and the new medical training facility at KGH, there is currently almost \$900 million in health care capital construction taking place in the Central and North Okanagan.

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