



NEW YEAR'S BABY AND FAMILY — Joe Pavlin photo

JAN 2, 1998

Proud parents Krista Popwell and Blaine MacQueen of Fort St. John cuddle with their daughter, Hayley Kristine Popwell, who was the first baby born in 1998 in Fort St. John at the Fort St. John Hospital and Health Centre on New Year's Day at 6:01 a.m. Hayley weighed in at eight pounds, two ounces and is 20 inches long.

Fort St. John hospital to get new equipment

Gamma camera, ultrasound unit and anesthetic delivery system capital purchases

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Fort St. John General Hospital is getting new equipment in three departments, 1997 capital purchases which the province finances annually.

Andrew Neuner, chief executive officer, said the hospital will get a gamma camera which should cost about \$500,000. It's for a regional program for people all the way from Fort Nelson to Tumbler Ridge. It is "any kind of imaging that has to do with how internal body organs function."

The patient is injected with a fluid that shows up in the images and allows time lapse photos to reveal its progress

through the organs, showing organ function.

The CEO said this purchase will replace a camera that is just about finished.

They also anticipate buying an ultrasound unit for about \$300,000 to replace one that no longer works.

"We're down to one functional unit and you really need to have two for the volume that we do."

Neuner said the hospital now has a four-week waiting list for ultrasound procedures. "This will let us get caught up again."

Finally the hospital will get an up-to-date \$186,000 anesthetic delivery system for its two operating rooms.

"Nowadays all the new ones have certain types of alarms and monitors on them to track what's happening to the patient more carefully."

Neuner said the next step is sending out requests for quotes to supply the equipment.

JAN 9, 1998