

New hospital broke ground and EnCana doubled its reward in 2009

GROUND BREAKING FOR NEW HOSPITAL

"I think this is a day that everyone will remember for years and years to come," said Peace River North MLA Pat Pimm in July, at the ground breaking of construction on the new Fort St. John Hospital and Residential Care project.

The project, then estimated at \$297.9 million is targeted to be completed by spring of 2012 and will be situated on a 40 acre piece of land donated by the city, with a 55-bed acute care hospital and a 123-bed residential care facility.

As part of the Province's commitment to developing green, environmentally sus-

tainable infrastructure, the new hospital will be Gold LEED certified.

The Peace River Regional Hospital District contributed \$98 million towards the project, which is a public private partnership between Northern Health and ISL Health.

Pimm said the new hospital will be no further than a 10 minute drive from anywhere in the city.

ENCANA DOUBLES REWARD

Six bombings of natural gas facilities, two threat letters and nine months later, EnCana took further steps to catch the person or persons responsible by adding up to one million dollars to the reward.

"We hope that the reward will motivate someone who knows either the identity of the bomber or the location of the explosives to come forward to the police with that information," said Sgt. Tim Shields, RCMP Strategic Communications Section NCO.

"These are violent and dangerous criminal acts. They disrupt the lives on the people who live there and pose a very serious risk of causing injury or even death," Mike Graham of EnCana said in a press release.

"I can just tell you that every tip, regardless of its content is followed up until we have exhausted the tip. We treat every tip equally, of equal importance regardless of what it's content is," said Shields.



AHN File Photo

Northern Health Officials, Peace River North MLA, Pat Pimm, and Senator Richard Neufeld, Mayor, Bruce Lantz, Doig River First Nations representative Gerry Attachie, and others were among those who buried their shovels into some dirt at the official ground breaking of construction on the new Fort St. John Hospital and Residential Care project back in July.

Be An Angel campaign helps local hospital patients

By Melanie Robinson

FORT ST. JOHN – An average of 5,100 residents take advantage of the visiting specialists clinic at the Fort St. John Hospital each year.

This year's Be An Angel campaign, which kicked off on Nov. 1, aims to make that clinic better for both its patients and the visiting specialists by raising money to buy more updated equipment for the clinic.

The new and updated equipment, said executive director of the Fort St. John Hospital Foundation, Janice Isberg, will allow patients to get through their appointments in a more timely fashion and encourage specialists to come to Fort St. John for the clinic.

"When you've got a specialist coming up, they're here for a very limited amount of time and then they leave and so you want to schedule as many patients as possible with that specialist so they're coming in and out, in and out," she said. "If they have to disinfect and sterilize scopes every time between patients, it just means that they can see less patients. These guys are here maybe once every three months, so the more efficiently we can have patients accessing physicians, the better we're going to be."

Specialists at the clinic range from neurologists, who treat things such as epilepsy, to dermatologists and pediatricians.

Now in its 13 year, Be An Angel aims to raise \$200,000 for the campaign,

towards the purchase of items like a scope that will allow the otolaryngologist, an ear, nose and throat specialist, to see within cavities such as the back of the throat, the larynx and the esophagus. Other potential purchases include a piece of equipment that scans and maps out the cornea, which is able to check for.

Isberg said it's important for residents to know that the equipment purchased now, will be seen at the new Fort St. John Hospital site in the future.

"That includes purchases that have been made many years ago," she said. "We're moving but we're going to use all the equipment that is useable and that will fit into the design of the hospital, and that's pretty much everything that's workable."

Isberg added donations large and small are appreciated and will help those upwards of 5,100 patients who do not have to travel to other regions in the province for services, when they can be provided locally.

Plans for the campaign month include a number of financial institutions in the community doing bake sales, the annual Moose FM Light A Moose radio-thon on Nov. 28, 29 and 30 and the wrap-up with the Christmas tree lighting at the hospital on Dec. 1 at 5:30 p.m.

Those interested in donating can do so at local financial institutions, by dropping them off at the foundation office or online at www.fsjhospitalfoundation.ca.

SCANNER UNVEILED

Fort St. John Hospital Foundation director Sherri Collins and manager of diagnostic imaging for the hospital, Darlene Giesbrecht, did the official "ribbon cutting" and unveiling of the hospital's new CT scanner Friday. After a year of fundraising and bringing in over \$1.3 million from the community, the CT scanner is up and running at the Fort St. John and District Hospital.
(Aleisha Hendry/AHN)

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