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## Polson Tower project moves to next stage at Vernon Jubilee Hospital

VERNON – Interior Health has shortlisted two qualified teams to participate in the next stage of the selection process for the completion of floors six and seven in the Polson Tower at Vernon Jubilee Hospital.

Six teams responded to the project's request for qualifications. Following evaluation of the responses, the two teams shortlisted to move forward in the procurement process are:

- Graham Design-Builders LP
- Stuart Olson Dominion Construction

"Every milestone in this project is important. Our community is pleased to see this process moving along, as we look forward to expanded care for patients and their families," said Vernon-Monashee MLA Eric Foster.

The next step in the process is the release of the request for proposals (RFP) to the two shortlisted teams. A preferred proponent will be selected following an evaluation of responses to the RFP. Interior Health expects to select a preferred proponent and have construction start by the end of the year. It is anticipated the two floors will open in summer 2015.

"The additional beds in Polson Tower are but one part of a larger strategy to ensure the right care at the right time and in the right place," said Norman Embree, Interior Health Board Chair. "Other important pieces include supporting healthy communities, and ensuring those who no longer require hospital care have access to the appropriate services and settings when needed."

The completion of floors six and seven in Polson Tower was part of the Province's February 7, 2013, announcement of plans for adding 60 beds in the tower. Of the 60 beds, 14 will be new and the remaining 46 will be relocated from elsewhere in the hospital. The majority of the 60 beds on floors six and seven will be in private rooms complete with their own washrooms. This will improve patient experience through enhanced and more private care environments.

The project cost of \$29.6 million is being shared between the Province, the North Okanagan Columbia Shuswap Regional Hospital District and the Vernon Jubilee Hospital Foundation.

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