

# Infrastructure BC excited about Mills Memorial Hospital Redevelopment Project

By Cindy Chan



Mark Liedemann.

Infrastructure BC has a long history of bringing important and necessary projects to life, including the upcoming Mills Memorial Hospital in Terrace, B.C.

Established in 2002, Infrastructure BC is a Crown corporation that helps public sector plan and implement complex infrastructure projects. According to Mark Liedemann, President and CEO of Infrastructure BC, the process begins with owners identifying an infrastructure challenge, analyzing options to addressing the challenge and then determining how to engage the private sector to construct the new asset. Projects range from schools, bridges, highways

and hospitals – basically any type of basic service that the average person relies on. The projects that Infrastructure BC gets involved in tend to be large and are usually more than \$100 million.

Although it is called Infrastructure BC, which is owned by the Province of British Columbia, governed by a board of directors that reports to its sole shareholder, the Minister of Finance, the organization has worked all over Canada and even in the United States.

“Historically, our two largest sectors are transportation and health,” Liedemann says, adding the health-care side of Infrastructure BC has been extremely

active with completed projects in the northern part of B.C., including a hospital in Fort St. James and a smaller hospital in Haida Gwaii and Burns Lake.

“These are generally older facilities that have reached their end-of-life,” Liedemann adds. “They’re no longer suitable in their communities and it’s difficult to deliver modern health care in a facility that is 30 to 40 years old.

Another one of those projects includes procurement for a large new hospital in Terrace called the Mills Memorial Hospital. The \$447.5-million project is a new build that will replace the existing hospital in Terrace. Once the new Mills Memorial Hospital is up, the old hospital will be demolished. In the meantime, it is operational until then.

Mills Memorial Hospital will be a 26,400-square-foot acute care hospital and integrated services facility, according to the Infrastructure BC website. The hospital will be a centre for trauma, as well as a training site for medical students in the Northern Medical Program. The hospital will support Terrace and its surrounding communities such as Haida Gwaii, Stuart Lake and Dease Lake. Kathy Cloutier, Director of Corporate and Government Relations for Infrastructure BC, says the Level 3 accredited hospital will boast 78 patient beds, four surgical operating rooms, three diagnostic imaging rooms and 20 emer-



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gency department treatment spaces.

“One of the interesting things, from a procurement perspective, is we ran a request for qualification (RFQ), which is the first stage of a two-step procurement process to see who’s interested and capable of building a big hospital like this,” Liedemann explains. Unfortunately, the results were disappointing. “Only one group came forward.” That said, there will be opportunities for local contractors and subcontractors to participate in the project.

However, Liedemann recognizes the construction market in B.C. is busy and that Terrace is relatively remote, which may add a unique component to the project; that being a facility to house workers during construction period.

At the moment, construction has not yet begun; however there is a consortium who is interested and qualified. A firm price for the design of the hospital has recently been agreed to and now design development is proceeding. They do not

yet have an agreed price for the construction of the hospital.

“They don’t need to finish the design, but they will need to complete some level of design start before pricing can be discussed,” Liedemann says, estimating that they will be working on the design for six to nine months before giving cost estimates. “That will probably happen by 2021.”

For more information, visit [infrastructurebc.ca](http://infrastructurebc.ca). ●



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