

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Abbotsford Hospital and Cancer Centre Named Top Partnership Project in North America

Partnership recognized by prestigious Project Finance magazine

ABBOTSFORD – The new Abbotsford Regional Hospital and Cancer Centre project—to be built as a public-private partnership (PPP)—has been named the North American PPP Deal of the Year by the prestigious Project Finance magazine.

"We are very pleased that Access Health Abbotsford has been part of this internationally recognized partnership," said Paul Dunstan, Managing Director of Access Health Abbotsford. "The new hospital and cancer centre will deliver Fraser Valley residents with a state-of-the-art facility, while providing value-for-money for B.C. taxpayers."

Project Finance's deals of the year recognize examples of innovation, persistence and achievement in the financing of large-scale infrastructure projects. The magazine's awards are widely regarded as the most independent and thorough assessment of the global PPP market. The Project Finance awards cover all industries and are chosen based on the magazine's editorial assessment of the structural details of the partnership arrangement.

"Partnerships BC is pleased to be in partnership with Access Health Abbotsford on such an important project," said Larry Blain, President and CEO of Partnerships British Columbia. "This new public hospital and cancer centre will provide enhanced and improved public health care services to the Fraser Valley—B.C.'s fastest growing region."

The Abbotsford Regional Hospital and Cancer Centre is a partnership between Access Health Abbotsford (AHA) and the B.C. Ministry of Health Services, the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA), BC Cancer Agency (BCCA), Fraser Health Authority (FHA) and the Fraser Valley Regional Hospital District (FVRHD). The partnership will save taxpayers \$39 million.

"This award confirms that a world-class hospital and cancer centre will be delivered to the residents of Abbotsford and the Fraser Valley," said Mike de Jong, MLA for Abbotsford-Mt. Lehman and B.C. Minister of Forests. "This is an exciting time and construction is well underway. It will be a wonderful day when this facility will open its doors to patients and staff in the summer of 2008."

Dunstan pointed out that the award offers further support for the public-private partnership model for delivering new infrastructure projects in British Columbia. "B.C.'s partnership process is not only a leader in Canada, it is also a leader in North America," said Dunstan.

AHA will design, build, finance and maintain the new hospital and cancer centre, while all public health care services will be delivered by the Fraser Health Authority and BC Cancer Agency.

The Abbotsford Regional Hospital and Cancer Centre is planned as a state-of-the-art 300-bed replacement for the aging MSA acute care hospital in Abbotsford, and will provide enhanced and specialized health services to more than 150,000 people in the greater Abbotsford area, and up to 330,000 in the Fraser Valley region. The 60,000 square metre facility will be three times the size of the current MSA hospital.

Project Finance presented the North American Public-Private Partnership Deal of the Year to Access Health Abbotsford and Partnerships BC at an award ceremony on March 9, 2005.

The AHA team includes ABN AMRO Bank N.V.; PCL Constructors Westcoast; MCM/Silver Thomas Hanley; Johnson Controls & Sodexho.

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