

Sidhu, Manjit HLTH:EX

From: Sidhu, Manjit HLTH:EX
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 11:43 AM
To: Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Perri, Maria A HLTH:EX
Cc: Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Penticton hospital update

Government will probably be announcing something in the next few weeks, but not sure you want to say that.

Ryan, will give you a call on this.

From: Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 11:40 AM
To: Sidhu, Manjit HLTH:EX; Perri, Maria A HLTH:EX
Cc: Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: Penticton hospital update

Not sure who the new capital contact is but can you ask them when we expect to approve the business plan?
Minister said he hoped this would be done by end of June in estimates.

Thanks,

Kristy Anderson
Manager, Media Relations – Ministry of Health
Government Communications and Public Engagement

(250) 952-3387
(cell) (250) 818-6510
Kristy.Anderson@gov.bc.ca

From: Joe Fries [<mailto:jfries@pentictonwesternnews.com>]
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 9:35 AM
To: Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: Penticton hospital update

Hi Kristy:

As discussed, I'll be looking for an update on the PRH expansion proposal by 2 p.m. on Monday in order to make a compressed deadline for our Wednesday paper.

Below, you state a decision is expected by end of June, so I'll need a follow-up story to let people know if a decision has been made, what it is and when more information is coming. Or if not, why not, when it's coming and the reason for the delay.

Thanks. Joe

Joe Fries - Reporter

Penticton Western News
Penticton, B.C.
Office: 250-492-3636 ext. 218
Cell: 250-859-0740
On Twitter: [@JoeFries](#)

On 2014-05-28, at 2:52 PM, Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX wrote:

Hi Joe

Regarding your two questions below:

1. The business plan is currently being finalizing and the Ministry expects it will be submitted by in the very near future.
2. Yes – the decision to fund the project as outlined in the business plan and move to procurement of a qualified contractor

Kristy Anderson
Manager, Media Relations – Ministry of Health
Government Communications and Public Engagement

(250) 952-3387
(cell) (250) 818-6510
Kristy.Anderson@gov.bc.ca

From: Joe Fries [<mailto:jfries@pentictonwesternnews.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 28, 2014 2:38 PM
To: Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: Penticton hospital update

Just a couple things to clarify:

- Has the business case been completed and submitted to the ministry?
- By decision, you mean the decision to fund the project and move on to procurement, etc.?

Joe Fries - Reporter

Penticton Western News
Penticton, B.C.
Office: 250-492-3636 ext. 218
Cell: 250-859-0740
On Twitter: [@JoeFries](#)

On 2014-05-28, at 2:32 PM, Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX wrote:

Hi Joe

We look at all areas of a hospital as we develop a business plan to make sure it meets the needs of the population well into the future. It's too early in the planning process to confirm details about project scope. We'll provide more details on project and scope once the business plan has been reviewed and approved by government. As the Minister stated in Estimates on Monday – we expect government to complete their review and make their decision by the end of June.

Hope this helps.

Kristy Anderson
Manager, Media Relations – Ministry of Health
Government Communications and Public Engagement

(250) 952-3387
(cell) (250) 818-6510
Kristy.Anderson@gov.bc.ca

From: Joe Fries [<mailto:jfries@pentictonwesternnews.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 28, 2014 8:57 AM
To: XT:Kucey, Grace HLTH:IN; Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX
Subject: Penticton hospital update

Hello:

I'm doing an update piece on the PRH tower business case. Since I was last told it would be sent to government by the end of May, I'd like to tell to readers where it's at, if it's on schedule, and how soon it will be in front of Treasury Board for a funding decision, if that's indeed who will give the go-ahead. I'm also told that the scope of case has expanded to include a needs assessment of the full hospital. Can you explain?

Finally, below is a transcript of Monday debate on Health estimates. In the second last paragraph, Minister Lake says the business case will be complete within a month and on to the next stage. Can you clarify what he meant by that?

Please note, I've sent this to IH and the ministry, so whoever's most appropriate can respond. Deadline is end of day. Thanks. Joe

J. Darcy: If I could just ask a question about Penticton Hospital. Penticton Hospital commitments are not listed in Budget 2014, particularly under the three-year fiscal plan for capital expenditure projects greater than \$50 million.

The government states in the ministry service plan that they are proceeding with business planning, expected to be completed in 2014. However, a government press release from March 2013, over a year ago, says, "Business case development will get underway next month and is expected to be completed" this year. We appear to be about a year behind what was promised last year.

The script appears to be very similar to what I remember hearing last year, Minister. If that could please be clarified, I'm sure the people of Penticton would appreciate it.

Hon. T. Lake: In the spirit of the political jousting that always goes on in these forums, I would remind the members opposite — both the member for Vancouver–West End and the member for New Westminster — that for ten years an NDP government promised a hospital in Abbotsford. It was not built until we built it. I think the obvious thing is these are complex, and they're hard, and they require a large amount of capital.

There are people who have optimism around some of these projects. I get that. Hospitals are extremely important to communities. I know that in my community they certainly are. I know that in Penticton they are. I toured Penticton Regional Hospital last fall.

Again, the people.... I think it's the people — the member knows this, having worked in health care for many years — that really make the difference. The buildings sometimes can be a challenge, and it's impossible to replace all buildings at once, given the fiscal constraints of any government.

[1615]

But in terms of Penticton, they are doing a remarkable job there, and the community is excited about a new hospital redevelopment. The business plan.... Again, the regional hospital district is putting 40 percent into this product. I want to thank them for that.

The business plan is being evaluated, and I am informed it will be complete by June. So we should see that business plan in about a month from now and move forward to the next stage, in terms of looking at procurement and the difference stages there.

J. Darcy: It is well understood that hospitals are very complex endeavours and that they can take a number of years to build and to go through the various phases, which the minister has taken great lengths to explain to me again. The issue we have raised is that when people promise that it's going to be done in a certain time frame for political purposes and then in fact that's not the case, people are troubled by that.

Joe Fries - Reporter

Penticton Western News

Penticton, B.C.

Office: 250-492-3636 ext. 218

Cell: 250-859-0740

On Twitter: @JoeFries