

NEWS RELEASE

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BC's Auditor General comments on Partnerships BC's report on Abbotsford Hospital P3

VICTORIA—According to Auditor General Wayne Strelieff, the report by Partnerships BC on the project to replace the aging MSA Hospital in Abbotsford is fairly presented.

The project report, “Achieving Value for Money: Abbotsford Regional Hospital and Cancer Centre Project,” was released today by Partnerships BC. The report was prepared by Partnerships BC and reviewed by the Auditor General. “When those responsible for a significant government initiative report directly on their performance, the result is better accountability to legislators and the public,” Strelieff said.

Strelieff praised Partnerships BC's willingness to engage in the leading-edge practice of having its report reviewed by his Office as a step forward in improving the openness, transparency and timeliness of reporting to legislators and the public on significant government initiatives. “Having my office provide independent assurance that the reporting fairly presents the results of the Abbotsford Regional Hospital and Cancer Centre project adds credibility to the reporting.”

Strelieff said his review was designed to assess whether the report prepared by Partnerships BC fairly describes the context, decisions, procurement processes and results to date of the Abbotsford Regional Hospital and Cancer Centre project. His conclusions, in the form of a Review Engagement Report, are included in Partnership BC's report.

Strelieff cautioned that a review does not achieve the level of assurance that would be provided by a full audit. A review, he explained, provides a moderate level of assurance while an audit provides a high, though not absolute, level of assurance. The level of assurance possible is based, in part, on the ability to verify information. Because Partnership BC's report contains significant future-oriented information, and obtaining sufficient evidence to support a high level of assurance on future-oriented information is almost impossible, he concluded that a review engagement was appropriate.

Strelieff noted that this was the first time he has conducted this type of review, and indicated he will be considering how to follow up on this report, and how he will conduct similar reviews in the future.

The Partnerships BC report can be found on its website: <http://www.partnershipsbc.ca>

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This report is available:

On the Internet at the Office of the Auditor
General homepage: <http://bcauditor.com/AuditorGeneral.htm>

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