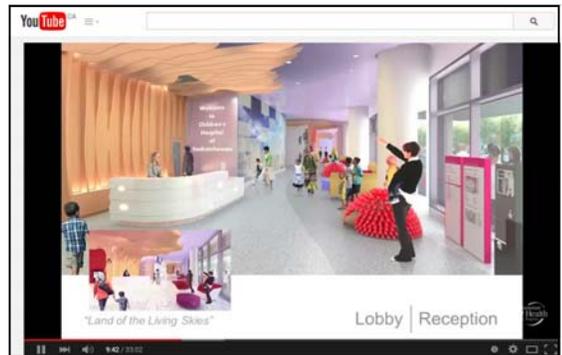




Interior design enters final stage

In late June, maternal and children's hospital interior design teams, which include families, clinical experts, housekeeping, infection control, and Children's Hospital Foundation heard how architects have taken their feedback and adapted the design created by over **600** children and teenagers from north, central and southern Saskatchewan. The building is a reflection of Saskatchewan-inspired themes for the hospital.

ZGF architects, the firm which has designed children's hospitals in Chicago, Colorado, Seattle and is currently involved with B.C. Children's and Women's Hospital, is partnering with HDH architects from Saskatoon on this project. ZGF kicked off the latest series of interior design and furniture meetings by providing an overview of how this hospital was designed by Saskatchewan families for Saskatchewan families, and how that interior has evolved based on feedback from interior design teams in Saskatoon.



Watch the video of the presentation on overall interior design—June 2015



Drawing of corridor in pediatric outpatients

Their feedback has been critical to enhancing what the kids and teens had asked for. Architects have worked to find the right balance of colour, sense of calm, appropriate lighting and positive distractions, while making sure the walls, flooring and furnishings last for years to come.

The interior design for the hospital is nearing completion, with a few outstanding areas set to receive more attention, such as the teen room and child play space on the pediatrics floor. The work in late June also included final confirmation of furniture types, styles and layouts throughout the building.

Tender for Phase 2 main building construction continues

Evaluation of tender for phase 2 of main building construction continues with pre-qualified bidders providing an extension to the bid acceptance period to late August.

The extension was required to allow sufficient time for due diligence to fully complete the tender evaluation and award process. There was an initial aggressive 60-day bid acceptance period. The recent extension allows for a more typical acceptance period for a project of this scale and complexity. The tender evaluation team, which includes representatives from Ministry of Health and Saskatoon Health Region, will use the additional time to further negotiate and finalize the tender award recommendation. The overall evaluation process continues to be witnessed by a fairness monitor.

The final recommendation will then move forward for review and approval within Ministry of Health and to the Saskatoon Regional Health Authority. This is expected to be completed towards end of August. Phase 2 construction on the main building will begin soon after tender award.

Operational Planning

Operational planning continues with clinical areas actively working on the tasks required to prepare for future operations and their defined flows. Support areas are working to identify what changes need to be in place for opening day.

This work includes continuing to trial bedside registration and triage in pediatric emergency, developing and introducing bedside report handover in maternal services, completing implementation of bedside report handover in Acute Care Pediatrics, developing just-in-time methods for delivery of supplies, and working to further the building's information technology plan.

Frequently Asked Questions

With the on-going work underway with operations, and the current construction site quiet during tender evaluation, here are some frequently asked questions we have received, and our answers to those questions.

Why is there no construction on the site given this is the best time of year to build?

We are finishing tender for the main building and hope to start phase 2 construction soon. Phase 1 construction for the hospital, which was piling and foundation work, wrapped up in March as scheduled. We are now waiting for a recommendation and approval of the successful pre-qualified bidder.

Why didn't you have Phase 2 ready to go as Phase 1 piling and foundation construction wrapped up?

Initially, the two phases were planned with a minimal gap between the phases. However, a few variables have affected the schedule. Extensions were needed to get fully-developed and accurate blueprints to issue to pre-qualified bidders. The pre-qualified bidders then asked for additional time to complete fully-developed proposals. Now, the evaluation team needs additional time beyond the 60-day bid acceptance period.

We can't see the pilings at the construction site. Did you actually finish?

We did finish all the 240 pilings required for Phase 1. The pilings that were completed aren't visible as they are foundation pilings and are in the ground.

We heard the contractor for the pilings pulled out of the bid process because of the instability of the site and the poor conditions. Is this true?

No. The piling contractor successfully completed their work as scheduled, and the installed pilings have been verified by an independent geotechnical engineer. They are not one of our pre-qualified bidders for overall construction. The piling contractor will return to complete the pilings that are scheduled to be installed as part of phase 2 construction.

Potential general contractors for phase 2 main building construction were pre-qualified in 2014. This ensured contractors bidding on phase 2 main building construction have demonstrated the capacity, experience and financial capability to complete a project with the size and complexities of CHS. All pre-qualified bidders submitted proposals for phase 2 construction and have agreed to an extension of the bid acceptance period.

We have heard there are concerns with the site given the riverbank instability. Is this true?

No. But given circumstances with other areas along the South Saskatchewan river valley, and because of the location of the hospital, it's a fair question and one we had, too. During the design phase of the hospital, extensive geotechnical testing was completed on the site. This confirmed that the riverbank is stable in its current condition and that construction of CHS does not impact riverbank slope stability.

What are the contents of the bids?

The contents of the confidential bids and details of the evaluation process can't be disclosed at this time. We are in the process of evaluating the bids. We can tell you the proposals received do include the number of working days to complete construction and price to construct the main building. The contract award amount and the projected number of days to complete construction is expected to be part of the tender award announcement.

When will the hospital open?

Using project management best estimates of anticipated construction duration from projects of similar scope and nature, the target for hospital construction completion was initially projected for late 2017.

The actual hospital construction duration is being confirmed through the general contractor, based on their expertise in building similar projects and considering the unique aspects of the Royal University Hospital building site and constraints. The anticipated date of completion is expected to be announced with tender award.