



Background

Abbotsford Hospital: chronology of events

2004

April 16

Access Health Abbotsford to file final bid proposal; RFP process concludes.

February 25

HEU releases review of RFP process by forensic auditor Ron Parks.

Early February

Healthcare Infrastructure Company of Canada voluntarily drops out of the bidding to build AHCC, leaving the Access Health Abbotsford consortium as the sole remaining bidder for the P3 hospital.

2003

December

Fraser Valley Health Partnership and Vancouver Health Care Group withdraw as bidders on the Abbotsford Hospital P3 project.

September 29

Government posts request for proposals (RFP) for the proposed Abbotsford Hospital and Cancer Centre.

May 27

As a result of expressions of interest, the government announces four short-listed bidders for the Abbotsford Hospital and Cancer Centre: Access Health Abbotsford, Fraser Valley Health Partnership, The Healthcare Infrastructure Company of Canada and Vancouver Health Care Group.

2002

November 13

Premier Campbell announces that the new Abbotsford hospital will be a public-private partnership at a meeting of the Independent Contractors and Businesses Association of B.C.

June 26

In a published report in the *Financial Times* of London, Britain's auditor general and deputy comptroller Jeremy Coleman says government officials rely heavily on "spurious" financial data to determine whether proposals for privately owned and operated hospitals are cost effective.

...over

May 8

Forensic auditor Ron Parks releases his review of the PwC report on how to develop ways to involve the private sector in the new Abbotsford facility through a so-called public-private partnership (P3). Parks finds that the B.C. government-sponsored study was based on “suspect data” that “should not be used as the basis for a definitive government decision.” Furthermore, a single small budget adjustment over a 30-year contract immediately wipes out the one-per-cent saving projected by PwC.

May 7

A McIntyre and Mustel poll released by HEU shows that 71 per cent of British Columbians do not support building a private hospital in Abbotsford and feel that the one-per-cent cost savings projected by the PwC report would not justify such a move. A majority of Liberal supporters are also opposed.

April 4

HEU engages forensic auditors Ron Parks and Derek Malcolm of Kroll Lindquist Avey to provide an independent analysis of the PwC report.

2001

October 23

At the Premier’s health summit where the private hospital issue is raised, health minister Colin Hansen tells a media scrum that Fraser Valley residents won’t be forced to accept a private hospital. Asked if the government would build the hospital through conventional public finance and ownership, Hansen responds: “Yes, of course.”

October 19

Based on leaks from government sources, HEU publicly exposes the Campbell government’s plans to build a privately financed, owned and operated facility, based on the British private finance initiative model. In a media interview, finance minister Gary Collins says the private hospital plan will go ahead, provided the community supports it.

August

Campbell government secretly shifts course and raises the private hospital option. A hasty request for proposals is put out. PricewaterhouseCoopers is hired to conduct the P3 feasibility study.

Spring

Previous NDP government approves business plan to replace MSA General with a publicly owned and operated facility. Capital allocations are approved.

