

CAMPBELL RIVER AND COMOX VALLEY HOSPITALS NOW ENERGIZED



BUILDING LINKS

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The North Island Hospitals Project (NIHP) reached an important milestone recently with the first-time energizing of the main electrical rooms in the new Comox Valley and Campbell River hospitals.

NIHP electrical contractors **Houle Electric** (at the Comox Valley Hospital) and **Keldon Electric** (at the Campbell River District Hospital) worked in concert with BC Hydro planners and crews to connect the new hospitals to the electrical grid. This involved running two underground 25,000-volt lines on separate circuits – a primary and an emergency back-up line – into each of the new hospitals. The two lines come together at a special ‘vista’ switch, which automatically activates the back-up circuit if primary power is interrupted.

Energizing the main electrical rooms set the stage to spread power throughout the hospitals via a 600-volt distribution network.



Current progress of Campbell River Hospital

PHOTO CREDIT: CAMPBELL RIVER WEBCAM

That voltage can be further stepped down to levels required by specific hospital equipment, as well as the standard 120-volt level.

Once the hospitals were energized, the information technology systems were set up. Each hospital will feature an amazing level of interconnectivity. Overall, the two new hospitals will have roughly 13,000 network connections. Network rooms will be spread throughout the hospitals, along with two equipment rooms, one on the roof and one in Level zero with servers in them.

The network in each of the new hospitals will do many things. It will connect computers and printers for uses such as recording medical data in the Electronic Health Record. It will provide the phone systems for the hospitals. It will also be used for many medical devices, such as vital signs monitors (which take blood pressure, temperature, etc.) as well as infusion pumps, wound cameras, Telehealth and

other video conferencing, and facilitates connections such as the nurse call system.

The hospitals are expected to open in the fall of 2017.

Over the life of the project, construction of the new facilities will have created an estimated 2,200 direct jobs and more than 1,400 indirect jobs. Monthly employment figures peaked in April, 2016 with more than 1,000 workers, including 290 apprentices, working at the two sites. Roughly two-thirds of the workforce is local and approximately 92 per cent from Vancouver Island.

For more information go to the news page on the North Island Hospitals Project website: <http://nihp.viha.ca/news/>

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