

For Immediate Release
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**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS ISSUED
FOR MENTAL HEALTH CENTRE PENETANGUISHENE PROJECT**

TORONTO – Mental Health Centre Penetanguishene (MHCP) and Infrastructure Ontario released a request for qualifications (RFQ) today to design, build, finance and maintain a new, state-of-the-art mental health care facility that will be built on the hospital’s existing site.

The new facility will provide a secure environment for offenders with mental health disorders. The expanded hospital will replace the existing 160-bed Oak Ridge Facility and the 20-bed Brebeuf Facility, and will consolidate MHCP into a more efficient, integrated building complex.

The RFQ is the first step in the process to select a team to design, build, finance and maintain the new facility.

“Today’s announcement marks an important milestone for the Mental Health Centre Penetanguishene and the people it serves,” said George Smitherman, Deputy Premier and Minister of Energy and Infrastructure. “This project is one of many in our government’s \$30-billion plus investment plan to modernize public infrastructure across Ontario.”

RFQ submissions will be reviewed to pre-qualify project teams that have the design, construction and facilities management experience, as well as the qualified personnel and the financial strength to deliver a project of this size and complexity. Pre-qualified teams will be invited to respond to a request for proposals (RFP), expected to be released in early 2010, to design, build, finance and maintain the new facility.

“Improving mental health services is one of my priorities,” said David Caplan, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care. “This new facility will help to improve access to quality mental health care for the people of this community.”

“Issuing the RFQ begins our search for the building team with which we will partner for this important project,” said Carol Lambie, President and CEO of Mental Health Centre Penetanguishene. “We are grateful for the commitment shown to the hospital by all of our partners and we look forward to continuing our collaborative work.”

Infrastructure Ontario will work with Mental Health Centre Penetanguishene to build the hospital, which will remain publicly owned, publicly controlled and publicly accountable. Infrastructure Ontario is a Crown corporation dedicated to managing some of the province's larger and more complex infrastructure renewal projects – ensuring they are built on time and on budget.

The new facility will be part of the Mental Health Centre Penetanguishene, a 312 bed psychiatric hospital located on Georgian Bay in the Town of Penetanguishene, approximately 150 km northwest of Toronto. MHCP provides an extensive range of both acute and longer term psychiatric inpatient and outpatient services to all of Simcoe County, part of Dufferin County and the southern portion of Muskoka/Parry Sound. In addition, MHCP provides the province's only maximum secure forensic program for clients served by both the mental health and justice systems. The hospital is recognized for the provision of exceptional care to those most needing mental health services and for its contributions to the understanding of mental illness.

Visit www.infrastructureontario.ca for more information.

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