



## Northern Cancer Control Strategy: NEWS RELEASE

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### Northern oncology leader hired as director for new centre

An important leadership position for the new BC Cancer Agency Centre for the North has been hired. LaDonna Fehr has been appointed to the position of Director of Clinical Operations - Systemic Therapy for the new cancer centre.

"LaDonna is well known and highly regarded for her exceptional work with cancer patients and their families," said Prince George-Valemount MLA Shirley Bond. "LaDonna's appointment is significant since she has lived and worked in our community and will now be a critical part of the Centre for the North team. I am thrilled that LaDonna will continue to ensure quality care for Northern families."

"LaDonna brings a significant wealth of knowledge and experience to the new centre's leadership group," said Dr. Charles Blanke, vice-president of systemic therapy with the BC Cancer Agency. "We welcome her to our provincial team and look forward to her contributions."

"Recruiting the best team possible for the new centre includes bringing on board skilled professionals with experience in rural and remote environments," said Prince George – Mackenzie MLA Pat Bell. "LaDonna's background will help to further foster excellence in cancer care for our region."

LaDonna is an oncology nurse who has provided care to cancer patients in Northern B.C. since 1988. She has previously been the head of the Prince George Regional Cancer Clinic (RCCU). In 2007, she became the Regional Oncology Leader for Northern Health through which she played a key role in building a collaborative oncology network in the North. While continuing to oversee the RCCU, she also provided ongoing clinical direction and support for NH's nine other community cancer clinics located across the region.

"This appointment represents a major milestone in the assembly of the new Centre for the North's leadership team in the North, as well as in the advancement of the Northern Cancer Control Strategy partnership," said Dr. Ronald Chapman, regional director of the Northern Cancer Control Strategy.

"With the BC Cancer Agency Centre for the North opening in late 2012, LaDonna will be working to ensure a smooth transition for regional services so that ongoing working relationships can continue as well as grow," added Blanke. "She will also continue to provide leadership to the northern Community Oncology Network with respect to best practices development and quality care standards."

"Recruitment is continuing successfully for the new centre and we look forward to welcoming more cancer care specialists over the next year and a half," said John Rustad, Nechako Lakes MLA.

*The Northern Cancer Control Strategy is a joint partnership between Northern Health, BC Cancer Agency and the Provincial Health Services Authority. It is focused on enhancing the continuum of cancer services in the North, including prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment, supportive and palliative care.*

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