

November 18, 2011

Federal-Provincial Knowledge Infrastructure Program Investment at U of S

PROJECT BACKGROUND

- Completion of initiatives supported through the Canadian and Saskatchewan governments through the federal Knowledge Infrastructure Program (KIP) for diagnostic facilities and associated areas caps off a seven-year, \$74-million project that began at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVN) in 2004.
- The multi-phase project included construction of a new research wing, an expanded veterinary medical centre, a new diagnostics addition, and renovations to more than a third of the original veterinary college.
- KIP-supported work at the U of S also included more than half a kilometre of concrete tunnels to contain a major steam distribution system to serve the WCVN, VIDO-InterVac, and the Canadian Light Source synchrotron. KIP investment also made possible essential repairs and upgrades to roofs on 47 buildings across campus.

FUNDING BACKGROUND

- Upon completion, total cost for the WCVN project was \$8 million (including \$3.3 million KIP); the steam distribution system was \$5.7 million (\$2.5 million KIP); the research rooftops renewal was \$13.9 million (\$6.4 million KIP).

TIMELINE

- Construction on KIP-supported projects at the WCVN began in the fall of 2009. Renovations were completed in the fall of 2011. Rooftop renewals and the steam distribution system followed a similar timeline.

NUMBER OF JOBS CREATED

- As of completion, the WCVN project had created 99 jobs (55 in Saskatchewan); the steam distribution project had created 122 jobs (67 in Saskatchewan) and the rooftops renewal had created 252 jobs (139 in Saskatchewan).

FINANCIAL BENEFITS

- As of completion, the WCVN project had created direct economic impact of \$5.5 million (\$4.6 million in Saskatchewan). The steam distribution project created direct economic impact of \$6.8 million (\$5.8 million in Saskatchewan). The rooftops renewal created direct economic impact of \$14.1 million (\$12 million in Saskatchewan).
- KIP investments helped leverage indirect economic impact of \$21 million nationally and \$13 million in Saskatchewan for all three projects.

PROJECT DETAILS

- Construction crews renovated existing parts of the WCVN to develop a comprehensive, biosecure laboratory complex. This area brings together nearly all of the diagnostic services including labs for the study of virology, immunology, bacteriology, serology (blood serum studies), toxicology, and prion diseases.

- These new resources are fully integrated with the WCVM's two-storey diagnostics addition completed in 2009. This 3,000-square-metre facility includes a consolidated histology laboratory, a post-mortem examination room, lab space for diagnostic research and support services and a special project lab for handling potential high-risk cases of zoonotic disease (transmissible between humans and animals) or suspect foreign animal disease.
- Prairie Diagnostic Services (PDS), owned by the Province of Saskatchewan and the University of Saskatchewan, is based in the new diagnostics complex. PDS provides veterinary diagnostic services for western Canadians and participates in national disease surveillance.
- Additional KIP-funded projects at the WCVM include the development of a necropsy demonstration area for veterinary teaching, a bovine isolation area for clinical services, new student areas, and additional space for information technology and distance education.
- The steam distribution system replacement involved building about 570 metres of concrete tunnel under the east side of Veterinary Road. The tunnel contains condensate, high-pressure steam, and pumper condensate return lines.
- The research roof top renewal involved installing new roofing with higher insulation values.

BENEFITS

- ***Diagnostic services and disease surveillance:*** The new diagnostics lab complex at the WCVM will provide livestock producers, veterinarians and researchers with an advanced centre for animal health diagnostics testing and disease surveillance. The new complex will help protect animal and human health as well as food safety in Canada.
- ***Veterinary education:*** The diagnostic lab complex and necropsy demonstration area will support and enhance training of future veterinarians — Canada's first line of response against health threats such as emerging diseases. It will also provide graduate students with technological resources for specialized training in animal health, pathology and biomedical sciences.
- ***Research:*** The lab complex and its diagnostic caseload will support ongoing efforts of WCVM researchers and their collaborators in critical areas such as infectious diseases, disease surveillance, epidemiology, public health and food safety. It will provide faculty, staff and students with an environment where innovations in diagnostic and clinical techniques can be developed, tested and practically applied — all at one centre.
- ***Critical support infrastructure:*** The research roof top renewal and steam distribution system will provide a reliable, safe, and stable environment for researchers and support staff. It will also conserve water and help mitigate future energy costs through conservation and increased efficiency.

For more information, contact:

Myrna MacDonald, Communications
 Western College of Veterinary Medicine, U of S
 Tel: 306-225-4479 Cell: 306-291-9950
sm.ridley@sasktel.net

Michael Robin
 U of S Research Communications
 Tel: 966-1425
michael.robin@usask.ca