

New Clinic Benefits CFB Valcartier

In August 2012, the Construction Troop at 5 Combat Engineer Regiment was approached by Garrison Construction Engineering about the possibility of building a medical clinic located at Camp Vimy in CFB Valcartier. This camp is used in the summer by hundreds of Land Forces Quebec Area (LFQA) reservists, who are housed in modular tents that are erected on top of concrete slabs. The medical facility was exactly the same, and while they were able to work in that capacity, and did so for many years, the challenges of working under canvas were compounded by the requirements of a clinical environment. A need was therefore established to construct a better infrastructure for their clinical requirements.

Through a CFTPO agreement between the Valcartier Base CE and 5 CER, the Construction Troop is undertaking the entire project from start to finish. As there is only minimal assistance from contractors there will be significant savings allowing CE the financial leverage needed to make even further improvements to the Valcartier Garrison infrastructure. The building is quite large being 330m² and will have a waiting room, two treatment rooms, a pharmacy, a physiotherapy room and one bathroom. Though it is fairly large, by medical standards, its facilities are going to be relatively austere as it will be used mainly in the summer. Once completed, the clinic will only be used to treat the myriad of minor ailments and injuries. Other injuries that are sustained by the hard training soldiers with the need of more advanced care will be then given by the clinic on base.



As we don't often get to plan and implement a project of this scale, everyone from the senior staff to the most junior tradesman has faced challenges and gained an understanding with regards to projects of this scope. The learning curve has been especially steep for some of the sections; most significantly the Refrigeration Mechanics and the Plumbers as the planning for the installation of large air conditioning systems and fire protection have not been the norm for the

Construction Troop. This project has therefore provided significant experience for those members in particular.

Construction was started in the fall of 2012 and the weather posed significant challenges with Québec winters ensuring that the construction of the frame and roof provided the opportunity for our members to put on their cold weather skills to the test. “Normally framing and roofing are done in the spring and summer, but by doing this in winter, it really tested our organizational abilities and amplified the requirement for teamwork,” stated Sgt Denis Raymond, a carpenter and one of the site supervisors. Safely overcoming this obstacle, the troop is currently working under a roof and out of the weather to install the rough electrical, plumbing, insulation and has commenced the hanging of drywall that is foreseen to be completed in late April.

Not content to relax, the Construction Troop is looking to the future with consideration and elementary planning of projects for 2014 in the hopes of taking on greater challenges that will serve the Canadian Forces while simultaneously taking our abilities to the next level.