

April 9, 2019

Department of Transportation & Works
Government of Newfoundland & Labrador
5th Floor, West Block, Confederation Building
100 Prince Phillip Drive
P.O. Box 8700, St. John's NL A1B 4J6

Attention: Bill Hunt, P. Eng.
Senior Engineer - Infrastructure Planning and Procurement Division

Reference: Fairness Advisor Contract Number – CSUL 18037

Subject: **Fairness Advisory Services for New Adult Mental Health and Addictions Facility – RFQ Stage**

The Government of Newfoundland & Labrador, Department of Transportation & Works (“Department”), engaged OPTIMUS | SBR (“OSBR”), as Fairness Advisor to act as an independent and impartial third party who will observe, monitor, provide oversight and report on the procurement process for the New Adult Mental Health and Addictions Facility (“NAMHAF”), Project (No. 181315003 (“Project”). Our mandate is to confirm that the procurement process undertaken by the Department demonstrated openness, transparency and impartiality throughout. This interim report deals with the evaluation of the Request for Qualifications (“RFQ”) stage of the procurement process.

The RFQ and all associated procurement documents including Addenda, Requests for Information and related responses were reviewed by the Fairness Advisor prior to their issue. Evaluation materials, including the Evaluation Manual to guide the implementation of the evaluation procedures as set out in the RFQ, the individual evaluator worksheets and evaluator training deck were all reviewed by the Fairness Advisor in advance of the evaluation of the Responses.

Observations and Findings

The evaluation process and criteria described in the RFQ were applied consistently and equitably. Prior to the evaluation, all participants in the evaluation process completed Confidentiality Agreements and “Relationship Declarations” (declaring potential Conflicts of Interest) prior to distribution of the Responses. In the consensus evaluation discussions, all of which were attended and monitored by the Fairness Advisor, the Evaluators demonstrated that they had been diligent in their responsibilities, were able to support their individual evaluation assessments and that they held no bias for or against any Respondent. Consensus was reached and confirmed by all Evaluators, rather than an averaging approach. An official record was produced to document the evaluation and scoring consensus decisions, including the supporting rationale.

The results of the consensus scoring of each of the Evaluation Teams (Design-Build, Services and Financial), were presented to the Evaluation Committee by the respective Team Leads in sessions attended by the Fairness

Advisor. The recommendations of the Evaluation Teams and overall results were accepted by the Evaluation Committee and subsequently endorsed by the Project Steering Committee.

There were no unresolved issues on completion of the evaluation stage of the procurement.

Results

There were three (3) Responses to the RFQ. All responses passed the Completeness Review prior to distribution to the individual Evaluators. As a result of the Evaluation Team consensus process, a final ranking of the three Short-Listed Respondents (“Proponents”) was achieved. We confirm that the identified Proponents successfully satisfied the requirements of the RFQ evaluation process. The order of ranking of the Proponents is:

1. NL Healthcare Partners
2. Avalon Healthcare Partnership
3. Atlantic Healthcare Group

Conclusion

As the Fairness Advisor for the Project, we certify that the principles of openness, fairness, consistency and transparency have been, in our opinion, properly established and maintained throughout the procurement process and all Proponents treated consistently in the evaluation process and in accordance with the Project RFQ. Furthermore, we were not aware of any issues that emerged during the process that would have impaired the fairness of this initiative.

OPTIMUS|SBR Inc.



Greg Dadd
Fairness Advisor
Principal, Procurement and Fairness Advisory Services