

August 26, 2020

Department of Transportation & Works  
Province of Newfoundland and Labrador  
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**Attention:** Steven Forward, P.Eng  
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**Subject: Interim Fairness Report  
Fairness Advisory Services for New Adult Mental Health and Addictions Facility**

The Province of Newfoundland and 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 Project ("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 Proposal ("RFP") stage of the Project procurement process.

The RFP and all associated procurement documents including Addenda, Requests for Information and related solicitation materials 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 RFSQ, the individual Evaluator worksheets and Evaluator training deck were all reviewed by the Fairness Advisor in advance of the evaluation of the proponent submissions. During the RFP Open Stage, the Fairness Advisor attended all proponent meetings, including all Commercially Confidential sessions, both in-person and virtual online meetings, the latter occurring due to COVID-19 restrictions.

### **Observations and Findings**

The evaluation process and criteria described in the RFP were applied consistently and equitably. Prior to the evaluation, all participants in the evaluation process completed Confidentiality Agreements and "Relationship Disclosure Declarations" (declaring potential Conflicts of Interest) prior to distribution of the submissions. In the consensus evaluation discussions, all of which were 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 Proponent. Consensus scores were 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, all of which were reviewed by the Fairness Advisor to ensure that they were consistent with the Evaluation Team discussions and decisions.

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 Steering Committee.

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

### **Results**

There were three (3) Proponents short-listed to advance to the RFP stage following the Request for Qualifications ("RFQ") process. All submissions responding to the RFP 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 Proponents was achieved. The order of ranking of the Proponents is:

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

### **Conclusion**

As the Fairness Advisor for the New Adult Mental Health and Addictions Facility 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 RFP. 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.



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Greg Dadd  
Fairness Advisor  
Principal, Procurement and Fairness Advisory Services