



Pictou-Antigonish
Regional Library

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Architectural firm selected for the first design phase of the Pictou Public Library Project

(Pictou, N.S.) Monday, August 17, 2015 - The Pictou Public Library Project Committee has awarded the contract for the first design phase for the new library (to be joined with the current deCoste Centre) to Archibald and Fraser Architects Limited. Archibald and Fraser Architects Ltd., based in Antigonish County, was the lead firm for the Antigonish Town and County Library - popularly called The People's Place. The firm has an extensive portfolio, having designed many public buildings across northern Nova Scotia and in the waterfront area of Pictou. The proposals received by the committee were impressive, but after careful consideration the decision was made keeping key factors, like energy sustainability and community collaboration, in mind.

"Speaking on behalf of the committee, we've carefully and thoughtfully reviewed each of the 10 proposals received from the Request for Proposals (RFP)." explains Town of Pictou Councillor Cam Beaton, Committee Chair. "There's tremendous architectural talent in Nova Scotia, but in the end the final decision was based on previous success in library design, energy sustainability experience, a proven ability to work within a highly intensive public consultation process, and price" he adds.

The Committee, who will guide the project through this first phase, has representation from the Town of Pictou, the Municipality of the County of Pictou, the deCoste Centre, and the Regional Library Board. The first step will be an onsite assessment of the deCoste Centre to explore options for locating a library on the property. This will be followed by public consultations to gather ideas from the general public and county and town groups, led by Regional Library Staff and lead Architect Dale Archibald. There will also be opportunities for input via the web and social media. Information gathered from all of these key stakeholders in various ways, in combination with the expertise of the architects, deCoste Centre and Regional Library staff, will factor into schematic design along with detailed costs for construction.

"Like other new library projects around the province, this can really act as a catalyst for growth in the Town of Pictou and the surrounding area. Public libraries today are vibrant community gathering and learning spaces and we have the benefit of partnering with the deCoste, a tremendously successful performance theatre. It's a winning combination." says Beaton.

Funding for this project has been provided by the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), Nova Scotia Communities, Culture, and Heritage (CCH), the Municipality of the County of Pictou, the Town of Pictou, and our communities.

-30-

For further information, contact:

Eric Stackhouse, Chief Librarian, Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library

(902) 755-6031 (office) (902) 331-0402 (cell)

estackho@nsgp.library.ns.ca Project website: www.parl.ns.ca/pictou