

October 23, 2017

New RVH Transitional Unit to address surging volumes

Earlier today the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, Dr. Eric Hoskins, announced Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH) will receive operational funding to open a new 36-bed Transitional Care Unit. The funding is part of the provincial government's \$140 million investment to address unprecedented capacity pressures by opening more than 2,000 additional hospital beds and community spaces in Ontario.

RVH's Transitional Care Unit will be located in a, currently, closed unit on the fourth floor of the health centre and will care for patients who have a firm discharge date but face a temporary obstacle, such as needing additional physiotherapy or home care. Focused, short-term supports will enable these patients to be more quickly and safely discharged back to the community.

Construction has begun on the Transitional Care Unit to ensure it is refreshed, equipped and ready to care for patients by December 1st, ahead of what is predicted to be a very difficult flu season. The health centre will immediately begin recruiting a multi-disciplinary care team, led by registered nurses and heavily focused on registered practical nurses, allied health and patient care assistants.

"This investment is the release valve we've been hoping for and will go a long way toward easing RVH's ongoing capacity challenges before flu season hits," says Janice Skot, RVH president and CEO. "RVH has experienced surging volumes for over a year now, with occupancy rates consistently over 110 per cent. When every bed is full, that has a domino effect right across the health centre. We look forward to working with the North Simcoe Muskoka Local Health Integration Network and our hospital and community partners to ensure patients are being safely cared for in a setting best suited to their clinical needs."

-30-

For more Information:

Jane Cocking
Corporate Communications
705-728-9090 ext. 41611

Donna Danyluk
Corporate Communications
705-728-9090 ext. 41610

About RVH:

RVH is a regional health centre in Barrie, Ontario, located 80 kilometres north of Toronto. As the largest hospital in North Simcoe Muskoka, RVH's team of over 350 physicians, 2,500 employees and 850 volunteers provides exceptional care and specialty services to almost half a million residents, including cancer care, stroke services, orthopaedics, intensive care, mental health and interventional radiology. RVH is focused on delivering high-quality, safe care that puts patients and their families first. For more information visit www.rvh.on.ca