

March 8, 2016

RVH approves 7th consecutive balanced budget

Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre's (RVH) Board of Directors has approved its 2016-'17 operating plan which will enable RVH to achieve its seventh consecutive balanced budget. The plan preserves patient services and maintains bed capacity, despite mounting financial pressures.

Ontario hospitals are required to balance their budgets, despite rising costs -- including drugs, supplies, energy and compensation costs -- growing patient volumes and four consecutive years of a funding freeze. The recent provincial budget included a one per cent increase to hospitals' base funding however, RVH still had to find over \$8 million in cost savings to balance this year's \$320 million budget.

"By leaving no stone unturned in non-clinical efficiencies, RVH is able to minimize the impact on patients, protect beds and services, while delivering quality, patient-centred care," says Janice Skot, RVH president and CEO. "RVH is in a privileged position in the province. We've grown significantly over the past few years and we will add new services in the next year. However, continuing to absorb rising costs and patient volumes is extremely challenging."

Despite the constraints, RVH will continue to invest in services not currently offered in North Simcoe Muskoka such as advanced cardiac and child and youth mental health. The budget plan enables the opening of an in-centre dialysis clinic at RVH this spring, and will also increase funding for the Intensive Care Unit to ensure the health centre can care for critically ill patients from throughout the region.

Regrettably, RVH's efficiency plan means the elimination of 24 vacant positions and a reduction of 32 active full-time equivalent positions. Nine new full-time equivalent positions will also be added. As staff exercise their rights under collective agreements, and take advantage of vacancies, retirements, leaves and regular turnover, the actual number of job reductions will decrease.

"Any changes that impact people are extremely difficult and are determined only after all other options are exhausted," says Skot. "Healthcare faces many challenges, including an aging population, high incidence of chronic disease, increasing costs and limited financial resources. But RVH, through its **MY CARE** strategy, along with the provincial government's Patients First: Action Plan for Health Care, is committed to safe, quality, patient-focused care."

-30-

For more information:

Suzanne Legue
Vice President, Strategy,
Communications & Stakeholder
Relations
705-728-9090 ext. 41600

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

About RVH:

RVH is a regional health centre in Barrie, Ontario, located 80 kilometres north of Toronto. As the largest hospital in the region of 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, orthopedics, intensive care, mental health and interventional radiology. RVH is focused on delivering safe, high quality care that puts patients and their families first. For more information visit www.rvh.on.ca