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MEDIA RELEASE

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SHHA Receives HIRF Funding

(Exeter, ON) - The South Huron Hospital Association (SHHA) has received one-time funding in the amount \$310,212 as part of the Government's Health Infrastructure Renewal Fund (HIRF). Ontario is providing \$175 million in 2016/17 to hospitals across the province - an increase of \$50 million over last year's funding.

"HIRF grants are essential in maintaining the physical structures of our hospital sites and we are certainly grateful to the Ministry and the South West Local Health Integration Network (SWLHIN) for the ongoing investments in SHHA," stated Todd Stepanuik, SHHA President & CEO. Hospitals can use HIRF funds for projects that extend the useful life, or result in an improvement in the quality or functionality of a hospital facility, but that will not result in an increase in operating funding. The HIRF provides funds to supplement a hospital's existing capital renewal program and help address renewal needs (e.g., roofing systems, boilers, windows, HVAC, fire alarm upgrades, etc.) on a priority basis.

HIRF grants were established to assist hospitals in their efforts to renew their facilities. The infusions of cash for building upgrades and repairs are investments in patient care.

SHHA continuously monitors and plans for replacement of equipment that is at end-of-life. At SHHA, the funds for 2016/17 have been targeted to replace: flooring, the hospital's telephone system, hot water tanks, and roof work.

All projects will be completed by March 31, 2017.