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Capital funding expands health facilities in southern Alberta

Lethbridge...Patients in Lethbridge and Medicine Hat will have better access to health services as more than \$14 million will be spent upgrading and expanding health facilities in their communities. The funding is being allocated from the \$50 million set aside for rural health infrastructure, announced June 30 as part of the Alberta government's \$700-million reinvestment in health care.

The Chinook Regional Health Authority will receive \$11.5 million to proceed with Phase I of the Lethbridge Regional Hospital redevelopment project. The funding will be used to renovate the former auxiliary hospital wing to accommodate a number of programs that are currently running in various locations throughout the city. Integrated disease management, prevention programs and seniors' health programs will all be relocated and consolidated to the renovated facility.

In Medicine Hat, the Palliser Health Region will receive \$2.5 million to redevelop and expand the Renal Dialysis Unit in the Medicine Hat Regional Hospital. This project supports the expanded Southern Alberta Renal Program, which will accommodate the increasing number of patients requiring renal dialysis, and allow them to receive this treatment close to home.

"Albertans always identify health as one of their top priorities and I am delighted to see these health facility projects get underway. I know with certainty that this use of capital funds will have a positive impact on the health and well-being of residents in southern Alberta," said Infrastructure Minister Ty Lund.

The Palliser Health Region will also receive \$150,000 to complete a programming study for the proposed expansion of the emergency and ambulatory care departments and other areas. Programming studies outline the scope and cost of capital projects and ensure multi-phase projects are coordinated.

"Expanding these facilities will provide better access to quality health care and bring care closer to home," said Gary Mar, Minister of Health and Wellness. "These are points we identified earlier this year as part of our health renewal plan."

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