

St. Francis Memorial Hospital to receive \$1.7M in infrastructure funding

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) has confirmed funding approval for St. Francis Memorial Hospital (SFMH) in Barry’s Bay, through its Health Infrastructure Renewal Funds (HIRF) program.

The funding injection is a result of a submission to the Exceptional Circumstance Project (ECP) Grant.

In response to an application, Minister of Health Eric Hoskins wrote letters to advise SFMH Chair Jasna Boyd and President & CEO Randy Penney that the hospital would receive up to \$1.7 million in one-time funding for 2017–18.

This is in addition to previous one-time HIRF funding of \$270,308 bringing the total to \$1,970,308 for the 2017–18 fiscal year—more than four times the funding amount received in the previous year.

“This request/positioning has been a real focus of our Senior Management team over the past number of years. We have worked closely with Ministry officials, the LHIN, our engineering consultants and our internal staff. I would like to acknowledge the hard work of Tim Sonnenburg, Greg McLeod, Will Borutski, Donna Percarskie and so many others who have positioned us well to access these dollars,” says Randy Penney, SFMH President & CEO.

These funds are to be used to address eligible repairs and upgrades that will help to keep SFMH in a state of good repair.

Some of the ‘big ticket’ infrastructure projects that will be addressed include: Electrical upgrades in preparation for an expansion of the emergency department and to ensure a secure power source for a rural hospital; improvements to air quality; and replacing original (1960s) heating pipes. Minor projects include sprinklers for the second floor of the hospital, heating boiler replacement, radiator replacements, air handling changes, as well as fridge and freezer upgrades.

“I would like to thank the MOHLTC for this investment ”adds Penney.

The hospital must meet the project completion deadline and reporting requirements set out by the Ministry.

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