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New and improved health facilities for Rimbey and Red Deer

Red Deer... The David Thompson Health Region will receive more than \$21 million for two major capital projects in Rimbey and Red Deer. 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 acute care wing of the Rimbey Hospital and Care Centre will be replaced at a cost of \$14 million. The new wing will offer an expanded number of acute care beds at 22, as well as emergency care, laboratory, diagnostic imaging, and rehabilitation services. Selected community health and community mental health services will also be located at the hospital site. The hospital serves more than 8,500 patients in and around the Rimbey area.

"I am very pleased to provide funding for even better health facilities in central Alberta," said Infrastructure Minister Ty Lund. "Health care is a top priority for Albertans and we are committed to providing quality facilities so they can access the health system when they need it."

In Red Deer, a new \$7.6 million community health centre will be built. The centre will expand public health and community care services to residents of all ages to help them maintain and improve their health, and to work with them to create healthy and supportive environments. Typically, community health centres provide home care services, counseling and placement services for continuing care facilities, rehabilitation services and public health services such as pre-natal classes and immunizations.

"These projects address two very different health care concerns. I think it is important that we are able to address both acute and community care needs for people in central Alberta," said Gary Mar, Minister of Health and Wellness. "Having better access to services closer to home is important no matter where you live."

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