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Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) is delighted to announce that we have received the final stage of approval from the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC) for our Palliative Care Centre expansion. We are now able to award the contract for the construction; pending successful contract negotiation, we will announce the construction start date and expected project completion date.

The expanded Palliative Care Centre will enable HHHS to provide the best possible care to patients who are reaching the end of their lives, while also supporting their families, loved ones and friends in a home like setting. “The expansion will allow HHHS to provide this much-needed service to more people in the community, and it will help enhance the present palliative care and hospice programs at HHHS,” stated HHHS President and CEO Carolyn Plummer.

The expanded Palliative Care Centre will be approximately 1,600 square feet, and will include two palliative care suites, a kitchen/lounge area, a quiet room, and a central washroom. Each suite will have a private washroom, comfortable furniture, and the ability to accommodate overnight stays for loved ones. A garden area complete with benches will provide a tranquil area.

The expansion of the Palliative Centre is being funded by the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) through the Making Moments Matter Campaign. “To date, \$925,000 has been raised, however further fundraising will be needed”, stated HHHSF Chairman Peter Oyler. “We sincerely thank all the donors and we look forward to the continued generous support”, said Oyler.

“The construction of the expanded Palliative Care Centre at HHHS will ensure that local residents continue to be supported at the end of their lives to die in a supportive, comforting environment,” said Deborah Hammons, CEO, Central East Local Health Integration Network. “Ensuring timely access to quality palliative and end-of-life care is not only an ethical imperative but a vital component of our health care system and we look forward to continuing to work with HHHS as this project moves forward.”

HHHS Board Chairman Dave Bonham, on behalf of the Board and staff, expressed his sincere gratitude to HHHSF for all of the work they have done and continue to do to raise the necessary funds for this project. He also expressed his deepest appreciation for the generosity of the community in helping to make this project a reality. HHHS would also like to acknowledge the support of the MOHLTC and the LHIN for helping us navigate through the approval process, and the HHHS staff for all their hard work to reach this stage.