



# COMMUNITY UPDATE

*The latest from Northern Health*

June 2023

## Organization and community news

---

### Helpful wildfire resources

As preparation for the 2023 wildfires, we have compiled a list of resources to keep you informed:

- [Northern Health – Wildfires and your health](#)
- [Extreme heat and heat warnings](#)
- [Wildfire preparedness](#)
- [Latest air quality advisories](#)
- [BC Wildfire fire list](#)
- [Emergency Info BC Advisories](#)
- [Heat Warning in BC](#)
- [Disaster stress](#)
- [BCCDC – Wildfire smoke](#)
- [FireSmoke Canada – BC smoke forecasts](#)
- [Recover after a wildfire – Re-entering your home or business](#)

### Newcrest Mining helps bring care ‘Closer to Home’

A huge (\$2 million!) announcement took place in Terrace this weekend. On June 3, the [Dr. R.E.M Lee Hospital Foundation](#) in Terrace kicked off a \$14.5 million fundraising campaign with the announcement of a \$2 million donation (the largest gift in the Foundation’s history!) from [Newcrest Mining](#).

A big thank you to Newcrest for being the first to support this crucial project! The fundraising campaign, titled ‘Closer to Home’, is focused on bringing a higher level of care to mothers and newborns in Northwest BC – a Tier 3 level Neonatal intensive Care Unit (NICU) at the new Mills Memorial Hospital, currently under construction and set to open in Spring 2025. Contact the [Dr. R.E.M Lee Hospital Foundation](#) for more info and to be part of this important initiative.

### June is Pride Month!

Pride Month is an opportunity to celebrate the love, diversity, and connection of 2SLGBTQ+ people in our communities. Pride Month is also an opportunity to acknowledge and address the continued discrimination, harassment, and violence faced by members of the 2SLGBTQ+ community both at home and abroad.

NH strives to create a diverse, equitable, and inclusive workplace for all individuals. Use of pronouns and inclusive language is a way in which organizations can demonstrate their support in diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives.

Throughout the month of June, we'll be sharing information and resources to help unpack these topics in an easy-to-understand way. Follow us on [Facebook](#) to learn more! For more resources on using inclusive language, visit the [BC Government page](#).

### **It's time to get screened! The Mobile Mammography Vans are coming to a location near you**

The BC Cancer Screening and Prevention mobile mammography coach is coming to a community near you! Call 1-800-663-9203 to book your free mammogram while they are in town (June 19 to August 31). Learn more on the [BC Cancer website](#).

### **Community Falls Prevention Discussions: Share the Invitation**

Did you know falls are the leading cause of injury for older adults? One in three British Columbians over the age of 65 will fall at least once in a year, and falls are the main reason why older adults lose their independence. The good news is many falls can be prevented and there are [resources](#) available to help keep older adults injury-free.

In June, Northern Health will be hosting fall prevention conversations across the Northwest region. Adults 65 years and older will be invited to share their thoughts during a telephone survey or an in-person group discussion in select communities. [Read more](#).

### **Northern Health Stories highlights**

The [Northern Health Stories site](#) is a great place to read about what's going on in Northern Health – people, places, projects, and more! Here are some recent highlights:

- [Celebrating Lena Hjorth – 50 years in health in the Nazko Valley](#)
- [Commercial Tobacco Day awareness](#)
- [Shift your mode for Go By Bike Week and beyond](#)
- [Food Costing in BC 2022: What does it mean for Northerners?](#)
- [Physical activity and wildfire season – The good, the bad, and the ugly](#)
- [Qualitycast North: Safe and supportive opioid prescribing for chronic pain, featuring Dr. Shannon Douglas](#)
- [Milk on the move: Northern Health Connections bus transports donor milk for fragile babies](#)
- [Rabies reminder: Don't touch bats!](#)
- [Evacuation Alert vs Order: What's the difference?](#)

## Overdose prevention and response

---

### Reminder! Text alerts for toxic drugs now available in the North

In response to the toxic drug emergency, a new text message alert system has been launched across Northern Health. The system sends text alerts with timely information and up-to-date resources to people who use drugs, those who support them, and community members. It's a public health measure to prevent drug poisonings and deaths and provides. Opt-in by texting **JOIN** to **ALERTS (253787)**. [More information](#).

### First Nations-Specific Data for Toxic Drug Poisoning Events in 2022

The First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) is releasing First Nations-specific data for toxic drug poisoning events in 2022, data that shows First Nations people remain disproportionately impacted, even seven years after British Columbia (BC) declared its province-wide public health emergency on illicit toxic drugs.

Link to release:

[FNHA Releases 2022 Toxic Drug Poisoning Crisis Data](#)

For more information on the data and regional-specific infographics:

[Toxic Drug Crisis Data \(fnha.ca\)](#)

### 24/7 Addiction Medicine Clinician Support Line – BCCSU

[The 24/7 Addiction Medicine Clinician Support Line](#) provides telephone consultation to physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses, midwives, and pharmacists who are involved in addiction and substance use care and treatment in British Columbia. The Support Line will connect these health care providers to an Addiction Medicine Specialist who has expertise and knowledge in addiction medicine (including emergency, acute, and community care). Consultation can include support in screening, assessment, treatment, and management of substance use and substance use disorder(s).

In partnership with FNHA, we are also supporting Indigenous communities in BC to access addiction consult phone services. This service extends beyond clinicians and provides addiction medicine guidance to any addiction support staff calling from Indigenous communities within BC, including Indigenous urban centers.

## COVID-19

---

COVID is still with us, in our communities, impacting our friends and loved ones. Vaccinations remain the best defence against both influenza and COVID-19.

On April 6, many of the remaining COVID-19 Provincial Health Orders were lifted, including mandatory universal masking at health care facilities and visitor restrictions to enter long-term care, assisted living and other health care facilities. [Learn more about the provincial announcement](#).

Beyond vaccinations, we can all take key preventive measures, including:

- Stay at home if you feel unwell and try to avoid spending time with people at higher risk of serious illness.
- Practice respiratory etiquette: Wear a mask in crowded, public spaces, and cough and sneeze into your elbow.
- Clean your hands regularly.
- Avoid touching your face, especially your eyes, mouth and nose.

For more information, visit [BCCDC](#) or the [Provincial Infection Control Network of British Columbia](#).

### **Resources and information**

The [Northern Health COVID-19](#) and [COVID-19 information](#) pages have information about immunization clinics, testing and self-isolation, the community toolkit, and trusted contacts.

For information outside of Northern Health, see [these trusted resources](#).