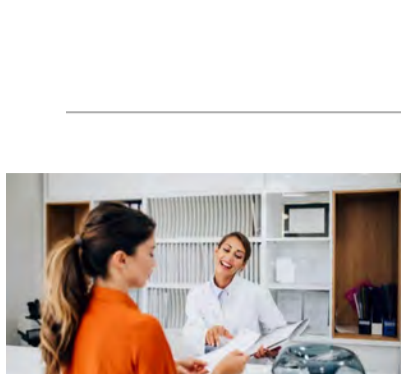


April 2025

Welcome to the Northern Health community update! Stay connected as we bring you monthly updates and valuable insight into health care in the North.

Want more frequent updates? [Follow Northern Health on Facebook](#) where we share news, stories, tips and ideas on healthy living.

Organization and Community News



BC Indigenous Nurses Day – April 10

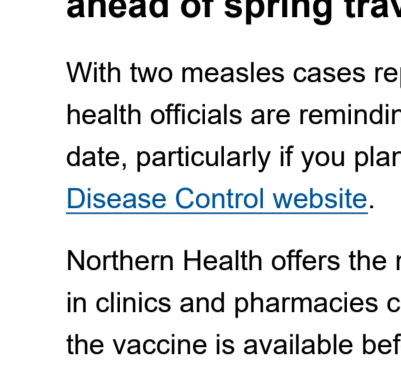
BC Indigenous Nurses Day is a special occasion to honour the legacy of Charlotte Edith Anderson Monture, the first Indigenous registered nurse in Canada, and Rose Casper, the first Indigenous nurse in Western Canada. Their pioneering efforts paved the way for future generations of Indigenous nurses, inspiring many to pursue careers in health care. [Read the full story on our website.](#)



On-demand STI testing now available from Northern Health

On-demand sexually transmitted infection (STI) testing is now available from Northern Health.

This free service is a quick and easy way to test for sexually transmitted infections such as chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, and HIV with no need to see a doctor or nurse. [Find out more on our website.](#)



Improving critical care recovery in the North

Surviving a critical illness or injury, and navigating the long road to recovery, can be an intense and complex experience for patients and their families. A first-of-its-kind in BC pilot project at University Hospital of Northern BC (UHNBC), led by Dr. Gary Misselbrook, is aiming to improve this experience for patients who have spent time in the hospital's critical care unit. [Read the full story on our website.](#)

BC residents advised to check their immunization records ahead of spring travel

With two measles cases reported in the province in people returning from travel, public health officials are reminding people in BC to check that their immunizations are up to date, particularly if you plan to travel this spring. [Read more on the BC Centre for Disease Control website.](#)

Northern Health offers the measles vaccine by appointment. Many primary care, walk-in clinics and pharmacies carry the measles vaccine. Please call ahead to make sure the vaccine is available before you visit. Find an [immunization clinic](#) near you.



Appropriate use of the emergency department and options for accessing health care

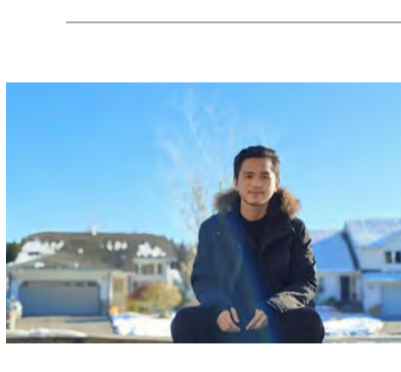
Emergency rooms in the North can face increasing strain at this time of year. Help take the pressure off the doctors and nurses that serve our communities by seeking care through these options, when you can:

- Call your family care provider
- Visit an urgent primary care centre or primary care clinic if one is available in your community
- Check out [HealthLinkBC.ca](#) or speak to a nurse at 8-1-1
- Talk to your local pharmacist about their expanded services, and [book an appointment with a pharmacist.](#)
- Book an appointment with the [Northern Health Virtual Clinic](#) at 1-844-645-7811
- Call 1-855-344-3800 to book an appointment with the [First Nations Virtual Doctor of the Day](#)

For life-threatening emergencies like chest pains, difficulty breathing, broken bones, or severe bleeding, the ER is the place to be. Call 9-1-1 for transport to your nearest available and appropriate facility. For more information, please visit our [service interruptions page.](#)

Health Human Resources (HHR)

The items in this Health Human Resources (HHR) section highlight some of NH's efforts to strengthen health care in the North by improving staff recruitment and retention as part of [BC's Health Human Resources Strategy](#).



New Health Care Recruitment Coordinator position created to support staff in Burns Lake

Burns Lake, a picturesque community nestled in the heart of the Lakes District, has recently introduced a new position aimed at bolstering the recruitment and retention of health care and medical staff. This initiative, funded by the Village of Burns Lake, the Regional District of Bulkley Nechako (Areas B and E), and the Northern Interior Rural Division of Family Practice, in collaboration with Northern Health, is led by a dedicated local resident who brings a deep connection to the town and its people. [Read the whole story on our website.](#)

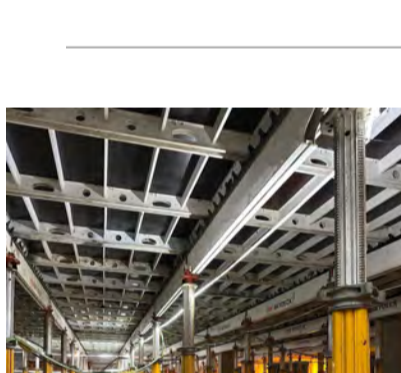
Health Career Access Program (HCAP) applications now open!

Know someone looking to start their health care career? Applications for Northern Health's Health Career Access Program (HCAP) in Burns Lake and Fort St. James are now open! The upcoming cohort starts August 24, 2025. [Visit our job site to apply.](#) [Learn more about the HCAP program on our website](#) or connect with our recruitment team at nhijobs@northernhealth.ca.



A second chance in radiology: Journey of an internationally educated MRT in Canada

Pursuing a professional career in a new country is never easy, especially when it involves overcoming academic and licensing hurdles. My journey to becoming a certified Medical Radiation Technologist (MRT) in BC has been a challenging yet rewarding experience that took determination, adaptability, and resilience. [Read Aldrin's story on our website.](#)



Celebrating staff retention at the Kitimat Community Health Centre

On January 29, 2025, the Kitimat Community Health Centre team began their day with a breakfast to honour four employees celebrating five years of service or more with Northern Health (NH). [Read about the staff members being recognized on our website.](#)

Recruiters on the road

NH's staff and physician recruitment teams have been out in full swing, sharing what kinds of opportunities set Northern BC apart. The recruiters have attended or presented at:

- Apr 2-6 – **American College of Physicians Internal Medicine Meeting** – New Orleans, USA
- Apr 10 – **University of Calgary OB/GYN Resident/Alumni Event** – Calgary, AB
- Apr 11 – **Doc Talk, all HSDA** – Jasper, AB
- Apr 11 – **Jasper Spring Retreat and Medical Conference** – Jasper, AB
- Apr 24-26 – **SRPC Rural and Remote** – Winnipeg, MB
- Apr 30 - **Adventures in Healthcare** - Quesnel, BC

To see highlights of these events and conferences, check out [Northern Health Careers](#).

Capital Projects



Dawson Creek & District Hospital replacement project

Check out the [April edition of the Quarterly Update](#) to learn more about where we're at, what's next, operational readiness and transition planning, highlights, and recent engagement initiatives. If you haven't already, [subscribe to our new community newsletter](#) to get the new edition of the quarterly newsletter right to your inbox!

We're also excited to share that the DCDH Art Committee has been formed, which consists of community partners, local artists, and Indigenous representatives. The purpose of the committee is to ensure the art in the new hospital reflects the community's cultural diversity and values and enhances the overall environment. The aim is to create a welcoming and therapeutic atmosphere for all, while preserving the hospital's history and promoting regional artists.



Inside the Construction of the UHNBC Parkade

[Take a moment to explore the photos](#) below for a behind the scenes look at the construction of the UHNBC parkade. This project is set to be completed by fall 2025, promising enhanced access and convenience for everyone visiting the hospital.

The Northern Interior Health Unit's big move to Parkwood Mall

To make room for the new acute care tower at UHNBC, we're relocating the services currently offered at the Northern Interior Health Unit (NIHU). This move will keep services close to the hospital, bring related services together, and boost parking availability. [Discover more details on our Let's Talk website.](#)

Northern Health Story 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:



- [Duchess Park students participate in career observation at UHNBC](#)
- [Celebrating Canadian Indigenous Languages Day – March 31](#)
- [The power of community connections: A path to better health and well-being](#)
- [Digital health tools for pregnancy: HealthElife and myHealthkey](#)
- [Thriving Indigenous food systems benefit all people, and our planet](#)
- [Changing the conversation about fertility](#)

Ministry of Health highlights

Including highlights from the [Ministry of Health](#) and [Ministry of Mental Health & Addictions](#) that are of interest to all BC residents:



Ministry of Health

- [Province continues to ensure people are protected from COVID-19, measles](#)
- [Sick notes restriction will leave more time for patient care](#)

Public Health

Northern Health Communities E-Brief – April 2025

The E-Brief is a monthly newsletter sharing resources, learning opportunities, and grant funding that supports community health in Northern BC. [Check out what's new for April 2025.](#)

To subscribe to this monthly newsletter, please email healthycommunities@northernhealth.ca with the subject line "subscribe."

Empowering communities: Drug checking services in the Northwest

Drug checking is one component of Northern Health's regional drug poisoning (overdose) prevention and response strategy, aimed at creating a low barrier access to life-saving services. The Northwest Specialized Services (NWSS) offers point of care drug checking with a Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) spectroscopy machine at the Specialized MHSU Outreach Office in Terrace. [Find our more on our Stories website.](#)

Overdose Advisory: Terrace – April 23, 2025

There has been an increase in overdose events in the community of Terrace, linked to purple and blue drugs. Overdoses are occurring when these drugs are smoked and injected. [For further information and resources, please visit our website.](#)

Drug Advisory: Northern Health region – March 27, 2025

Northern Health has issued a drug advisory for the Northern Health region. A round white pill sold as "Oxycocet" has tested positive for isotonitazene. Isotonitazene or "Nitazene" is a synthetic opioid that is equal or more toxic than fentanyl and is **not detected on fentanyl test strips**. [For further information and resources, please visit our website.](#)

Text alerts for toxic drugs available in the North

In response to the toxic drug emergency, a text message alert system was 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.](#)

