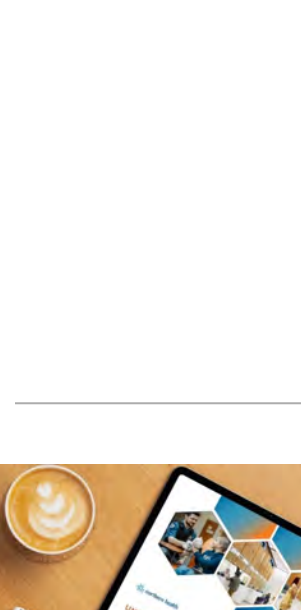


Welcome to the Northern Health community update! Stay connected as we bring you monthly updates and valuable insight into health care in the North.

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

Organization and Community News



Measles cases confirmed in Northeast BC and Smithers

On June 13, Northern Health identified multiple lab-confirmed cases of measles in the Northeast, and at least one case has been confirmed in Northwest BC since that time. [Read more on our website](#). The BC Centre for Disease Control reports on measles cases in BC online at: [Measles](#). Case numbers are updated every Monday and Thursday, and locations of potential exposures are listed on the BCCDC site as well.

Measles is highly contagious and can be very serious with almost 1 in 10 people being hospitalized. Getting immunized with at least two doses of measles-containing vaccine is the best way to prevent measles and potentially serious complications like pneumonia or encephalitis (inflammation of the brain). For information on how and where to get immunized, visit the [measles page](#) on our website.

If you have a fever and rash, and think you may have measles, especially if you have been in contact with someone with measles or traveled to an area with a measles outbreak, talk to a healthcare provider. As always, if you are feeling ill, please delay social visits to long term care settings or acute care patients in Northern Health facilities.



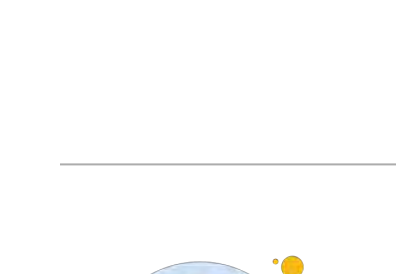
Ultrasound innovation brings health care closer to home on Haida Gwaii

On Haida Gwaii, local physicians are transforming patient care through the innovative use of point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS)—a technology that's proving to be a game-changer for rural medicine. [Read the full story on our website](#).



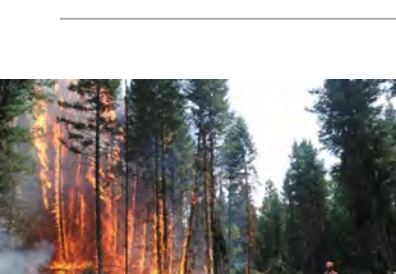
Nats'oojeh: Culture and care in Fort St. James

A new chapter in the Fort St. James community was marked on Friday, May 23, 2025, with the official naming of the new health care facility to Nats'oojeh Hospital and Health Centre - a name that honours the heritage and values of the local Indigenous peoples. [Read more on our Stories site](#).



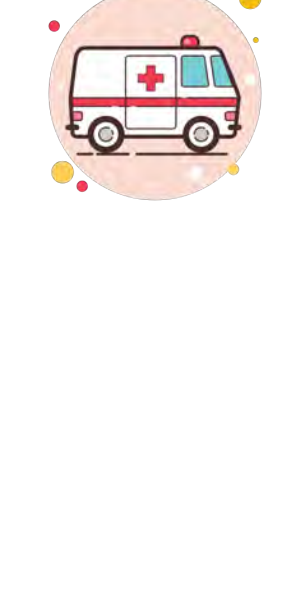
Simulating crisis to strengthen response: Code Orange exercise in Smithers

On May 23, 2025, [Northern Clinical Simulation \(NCS\)](#) was proud to support one of the largest live emergency response training exercises ever conducted in Northern BC. The full-scale simulation unfolded across two key sites: the [Smithers Regional Airport](#) and the Bulkley Valley District Hospital (BVDH), engaging more than 200 participants in a high-intensity Code Orange (mass casualty) scenario. [Read more](#).



Culturally safe spaces: Honouring Métis identity at Kitimat General Hospital

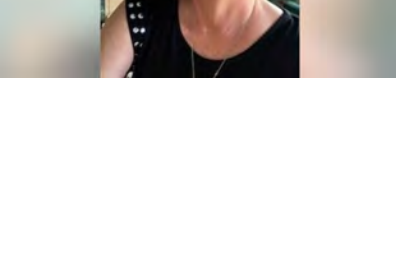
Kitimat General Hospital marked a meaningful milestone in its journey toward culturally-safe care. On April 30, a special event celebrated the unveiling of a framed Métis sash at the hospital's front entrance—a powerful symbol of Métis identity and pride. [Read the full story on our website](#).



Helpful wildfire resources

Wildfire season is continuing and we have compiled a list of resources to help you stay informed and prepared:

- [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](#)



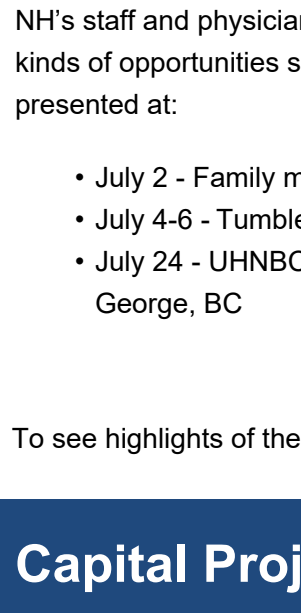
Wildfire smoke information

Poor air quality can be harmful to health, especially for those with chronic conditions like asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), heart disease, diabetes, and for pregnant people, infants and children, and older adults.

Take steps to keep you and your loved ones safe and healthy:

- Reduce the amount of time spent outdoors
- Stay hydrated
- Avoid rigorous outdoor activities, like exercise
- Keep windows closed in vehicles and homes
 - If you have one, use an indoor air cleaner or filtration system, or recirculate indoor air in a forced air system that is filtered (turn on your furnace fan)

For more information on how to stay safe in smoky conditions visit the [BCCDC Wildfire Smoke page](#).



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

Emergency rooms in the North may be facing increasing strain. 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](#).
- If you do not have a family doctor or nurse practitioner, 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](#).



GoHealth BC update: Over 500 nurses!

The GoHealth BC program is continuing to expand to more communities across BC. GoHealth BC nurses are now able to provide care in Fraser Lake and Quesnel as well as 100 Mile House, Clearwater, and Keremeos in Interior Health, and Tofino in Island Health.

We're also excited to share that GoHealth BC now has over 500 nurses employed through the program!

These nurses provide care throughout BC's rural and remote communities, with most of their working hours being spent in Northern BC.

Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) about the GoHealth BC program and our exciting initiatives!



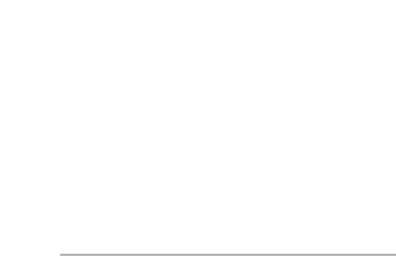
2025 Jago Award recipient: Innovation – Darren Ditto

This award is presented to an individual or team who exemplifies outstanding behaviours and actions that demonstrate Northern Health's value of innovation, by being receptive to new ideas and situations, seeking out opportunities to improve and streamline processes, and contributing to a work environment that encourages creativity, while promoting a culture of safety and quality. Our recipient in the category of innovation is Darren Ditto, Director, Clinical Information Systems Operations. [Read more](#).



2025 Jago Award recipient: Collaboration – Beth Ann Derksen

This award is presented to an individual or team who exemplifies outstanding behaviours and actions that demonstrate Northern Health's value of integrity and collaboration, by building open and trusting relationships, demonstrating honesty and consistency with NH's values, and fostering shared understanding through open dialogue. They encourage team unity by welcoming diverse ideas and resolving conflict in ways that support learning and growth for all involved. Our recipient for the collaboration category is Beth Ann Derksen, Executive Lead for Critical Care. [Read more](#).



2025 Jago Award Recipient: Empathy – Annette Weger

This award is presented to an individual, or team, who exemplifies outstanding behaviours and actions that demonstrate NH's value of empathy. By seeking to understand the unique experiences of others - showing concern and understanding for people's needs and feelings through sensitivity, warmth, and kindness, and by adapting their interaction style to support those needs, while offering compliments, encouragement, and support. Our recipient this year for the empathy category is Annette Weger, Health Services Administrator for Fort Nelson. [Read more](#).

2025 Jago Award recipient: Respect – Heather Ouellette

The Jago Award for respect is presented to an individual or team who exemplifies outstanding behaviours and actions that demonstrate NH's value of respect, by treating people with courtesy, politeness, and kindness; meeting people where they are; demonstrating curiosity about differences; encouraging others to express opinions and ideas; and fostering respect and understanding amongst team members. [Read more](#).

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:

- July 2 - Family medicine residents orientation - Prince George, BC
- July 4-6 - Tumbler Ridge Medical Conference - Tumbler Ridge, BC
- July 24 - UHNBC Presentation to graduating pharmacy tech students - Prince George, BC

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

Capital Projects

Northern Interior Health Unit to relocate in 2026

Big changes are coming to health care in Northern BC! The Northern Interior Health Unit (NIHU) is planning a move in spring 2026, settling the stage for the construction of a state-of-the-art, 11-story acute care tower at the University Hospital of Northern BC (UHNBC). [Read more](#).

Exploring acute care: A behind-the-scenes look at University Hospital of Northern BC's medical imaging department

The UHNBC Acute Care Tower project team took a field trip to the University Hospital of Northern British Columbia to learn more about how things work in the medical imaging department - and how it all fits into the exciting new tower project. [Read more](#).

Dawson Creek and District Hospital Replacement Project - A vibrant reveal of the exterior ACM panel colours

A vibrant new feature of the new Dawson Creek & District Hospital is catching the community's eye: the building's exterior colours.

With the majority of the aluminum composite material (ACM) panels now installed and the protective film getting peeled off, the building is quickly becoming a visible landmark on the city's skyline. [Read more and see photos here](#).

For a fulsome project update, visit the full [project report on our website](#).

FAQ: What is Northern Health doing to recruit and retain staff for the new Dawson Creek & District Hospital?

We recognize the concerns our communities have around the challenges in recruiting and retaining health care professionals in rural and northern areas like ours.

[Northern Health \(NH\)](#) is taking strong, coordinated action to address these challenges and is actively working towards building a sustainable workforce through a wide range of recruitment and retention strategies and initiatives. [Read more](#).

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:

- [Steady hand, kind heart: Celebrating 50 years of service at NH](#)
- [The Indigenous Care Team's impact during Indigenous History Month](#)
- [Cultural leave as a path to wellness and reconciliation](#)
- [Cultural leave: From disconnection to deep belonging](#)
- [BC Coroners Service shares unregulated drug toxicity data for May, June 2025](#)
- [B.C. fast-tracks recruitment of international doctors as U.S. campaign delivers results](#)
- [Province moves to protect supply of two more diabetes drugs](#)
- [Western Canada's first menopause clinic supports more people in B.C.](#)
- [Update on measles cases in B.C., ensuring people remain protected](#)

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:

- [BC Coroners Service shares unregulated drug toxicity data for May, June 2025](#)
- [B.C. fast-tracks recruitment of international doctors as U.S. campaign delivers results](#)
- [Province moves to protect supply of two more diabetes drugs](#)
- [Western Canada's first menopause clinic supports more people in B.C.](#)
- [Update on measles cases in B.C., ensuring people remain protected](#)

Public Health

Northern Health Communities E-Brief – July 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 July 2025](#).

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

Overdose Prevention and Response

Text alerts for toxic drugs available in the North

In response to the toxic drug emergency, a text message alert system has been implemented 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)**. [Read more information](#).



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