



### December 2025/January 2026

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



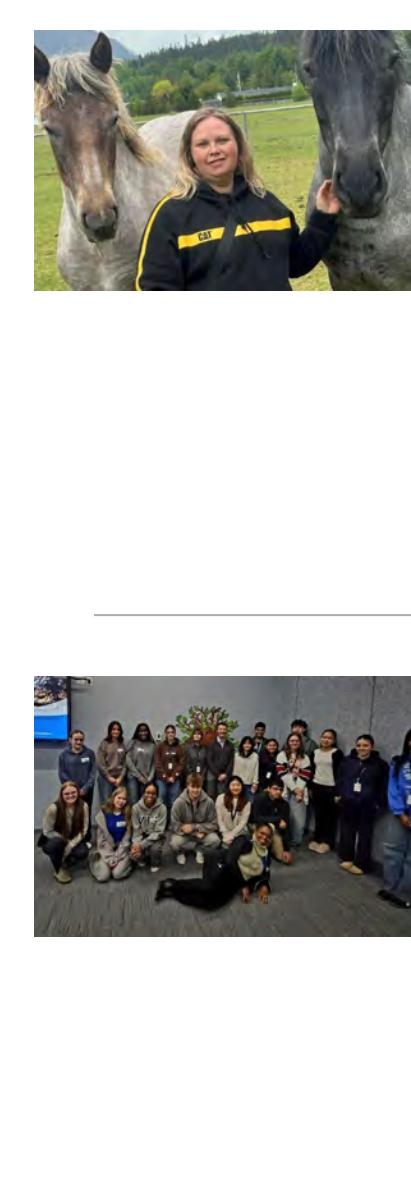
### Informing about emergency department status in the North

Keep up to date! Northern Health would like to announce the launch of the Emergency Department Status web page - designed to keep you informed about the status of emergency departments in your area.

Whether it's a late-night emergency or a weekend mishap, our page will help you quickly find out which emergency departments are open or temporarily closed, ensuring you have access to the information you need when you need it most.

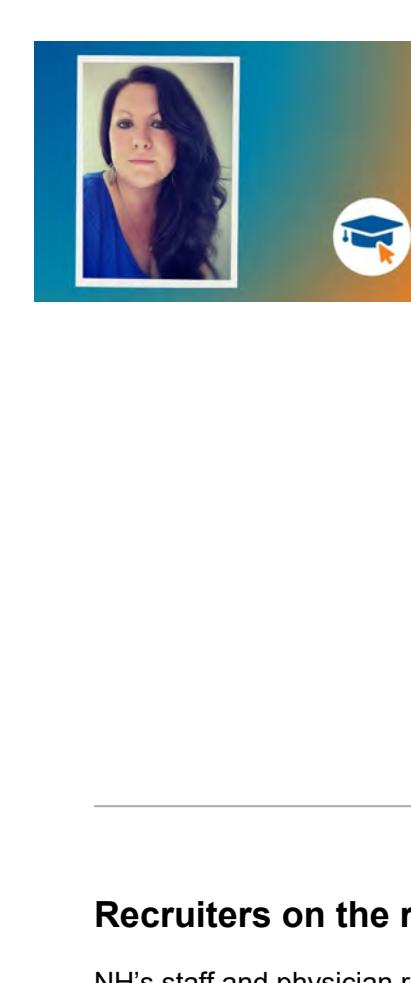
[Check it out now](#) and stay prepared! Always call 9-1-1 in the event of a life-threatening emergency for transport to the nearest available emergency department.

[Read the BV Government news release here.](#)



### First Northern Health baby of 2026 born in Terrace

Every New Year's Day, Northern Health monitors its hospitals and labour and delivery units for the birth of New Year's babies across the region. The Northern Health region's first baby born in 2026 was born in Terrace, and it's a girl! [Watch this page](#) for updates on the birth of 2026 New Year's babies in communities across the North.



### For the North, in the North: Residency program prepares physicians for rural practice

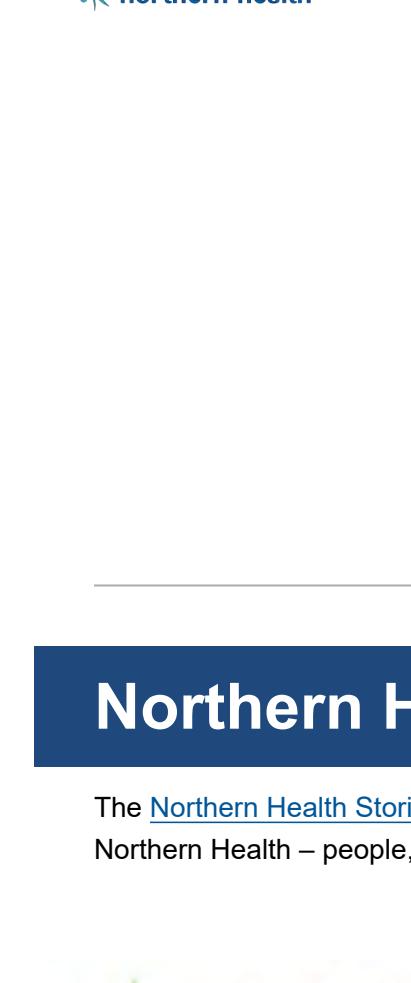
For Dr. bron Finkelstein, returning to Northern BC wasn't just a career move - it was a homecoming.

"I'm a rural family doctor, first and foremost," Finkelstein said. "I wanted to do full-service family medicine after I finished medical school, and Prince George was a very natural fit. It was close to my home, but also had a really strong program and a good reputation for training up rural doctors." [Read Dr. Finkelstein's full story here.](#)

### PetSmart, NH Connections, and Northern Health team up to deliver the holidays

The holidays will be a bit softer and cuddlier this season. PetSmart Prince George has been running the [PetSmart Charities Holiday Chance & Friends Program](#) fundraiser since 2013, with children in UHNBC's pediatric ward receiving stuffed animals around the holidays - a way to make their hospital experience a bit more joyful. However, this year - this effort has grown substantially.

"It's been a way for PetSmart to give back to the communities that support our stores all year long," said Sydney Gish, store manager of the Prince George location. [Read the full story here.](#)



### 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](#). [NH's Emergency Dept Status webpage](#) provides information on the open/temporarily closed status of Emergency Departments across the region.

## 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](#).



### Healing hooves: How Nicole Hendry and horses help high-risk youth

Nicole Hendry began her journey with the Integrated Child and Youth (ICY) team in Terrace two years ago.

This is a multi-disciplinary team that plays a key role in the Province's efforts to create a coordinated, comprehensive system of care for mental health and addictions.

While supporting students at a local secondary school, she joined a weekly outing to the riding stable and saw an opportunity. [Read more.](#)



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### First SEED program cohort wraps, inspiring future health care professionals!

Northern Health's (NH) Student Practice Education Team - in collaboration with School District 57, the College of New Caledonia (CNC), the University of Northern BC (UNBC), Northern Health Volunteer Services, and NH Recruitment - wrapped up the SEED (Study, Experience, Explore, Discover) program last month and is getting ready to welcome new cohorts in 2026. This program is an important initiative designed to give local high school students a direct look at careers in health care. [Read more.](#)



### Empowering health care through simulation in Northern BC

In the heart of Northern BC, Northern Health's (NH) Program is transforming health care education through immersive, hands-on learning experiences. With Simulation Centres located in Prince George, Fort St. John, and Terrace, the program equips health care professionals with the skills and confidence needed to deliver safe, effective care.

### Celebrating leadership growth: Stacey's journey to Certified Health Executive

Northern Health (NH) is proud to celebrate the achievement of Stacey Pickering, Regional Director of Development, who last year completed the [Certified Health Executive \(CHE\) program](#) and was awarded the CHE designation through the Canadian Association of Health Executives (CAHE).

Not only does this milestone reflect Stacey's personal commitment to leadership, but also the opportunities NH provides for professional growth that helped prepare her for this undertaking. [Read more.](#)

### Recruiters on the road

NH's staff and physician recruitment teams have been out in full swing, sharing what's going on high.

Presented at:

- Canadian Association of Pharmacy Students and Interns Conference

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

## Capital Projects



### FAQ: What's going to happen to the current Dawson Creek & District Hospital?

Many residents have been wondering what will happen to the current Dawson Creek & District Hospital (DCDH) once the new hospital opens. Health care services will continue to be delivered at the current hospital while construction is underway on the new hospital - which is expected to open in Spring 2027.

[Read the FAQ and here.](#)



### Dawson Creek & District Hospital - A bright welcome to the hospital's exterior

The new Dawson Creek and District Hospital - the latest to transform the region's skyline - is now open. With its modern design and bright, welcoming exterior, the new hospital is a true landmark for the community.

To view photos and watch a video of the exterior, visit the [Let's Talk page](#).



### Dawson Creek & District Hospital - Zoning is approved - so what does that mean?

On November 3, 2025, Prince George city council approved new zoning for the hospital site. This decision will guide our project team as we move

through planning and design for the new tower.

Zoning makes this project possible, but it's a big part of what makes the hospital special. The city has updated its zoning to accommodate the new tower, which will be a major addition to the city's skyline.

For more information, please visit our [service interruptions page](#). [NH's Emergency Dept Status webpage](#) provides information on the open/temporarily closed status of Emergency Departments across the region.



### University Hospital of Northern British Columbia - Acute Care Tower: Zoning is approved - so what does that mean?

We're happy to share an important step forward for the University Hospital of Northern British Columbia (UHNBC) Acute Care Tower project: the signing of the [Alliance Development Agreement \(ADA\)](#).

The ADA officially forms the alliance, a collaborative approach that brings together Northern Health, EllisDon, DIALOG, PML Professional Mechanical, and Houle Electric, working alongside Infrastructure BC.

This agreement establishes a foundation of shared responsibility, transparency, and collective decision-making, ensuring all partners work toward common goals and commit to resolving challenges together.



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