

Welcome to the Northern Health Healthy Communities E-Brief. This monthly newsletter, brought to you by the [Healthy Communities](#) team, aims to keep local governments and community organizations in Northern BC informed about resources, upcoming events, and funding opportunities that promote health and well-being.

## Resources

### **Active Transportation Promotion and Education Toolkit: A guide to encourage more sustainable travel**

This [guide](#) encourages sustainable travel by providing promotional and educational options suitable for various budgets. It includes a step-by-step implementation guide for local government staff responsible for transportation planning.

### **Advancing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through Physical Activity**

This [report](#) by ParticipACTION and the Canadian Fitness and Lifestyle Research Institute (CFLRI) explores how current sport, physical activity, and recreation (SPAR) strategies can be linked to SDG indicators. It also shares actionable recommendations. Listen to the webinar recording [online](#).

### **Celebrating Earth Day 2025**

Is your municipality involved with Earth Day? With the Mobilizing Municipalities movement, [Earth Day Canada](#) celebrates and supports communities that lead the fight for a more sustainable world. Explore the [2025 Mobilizing Municipalities](#) initiative and be inspired by those involved since its inception in 2020.

### **Climate and Housing Resource: How to Build More Housing in a Changing Climate**

This new [report](#) by the [Canadian Climate Institute](#) explains the need for all levels of government to strengthen land use policies and align housing, infrastructure, and disaster assistance policies to steer new homes away from hazardous areas.

### **From Risk to Resilience: A Resource to Support Community Wellbeing in a Changing Climate**

The new report, [Climate and Health in British Columbia: From Risk to Resilience](#), provides actionable recommendations for health systems and other sectors to tackle extreme heat, wildfires, flooding, and drought. The goal is to create resilient communities that can support everyone's health and well-being as the climate changes.

## Youth on the Land Opportunities Network (YOLO)

The [YOLO website](#), developed by leaders from organizations and Nations across BC, Northwest Territories, and Manitoba, supports educators and other looking to learn and do land- and water-based programming for Indigenous youth. [Sign up](#) for their email list, and [register](#) for YOLO's website launch and virtual tour on April 9 at 4:30 pm PT.

## Events and learning opportunities

### Northern BC Climate Action Network (NorthCAN) Forum

**Dates: April 29 and 30, 2025**

Join the [Community Energy Association](#) at the NorthCAN Forum 2025 in Prince George! Connect with others, get inspired by Northern BC leaders, learn about funding and new technologies, and brainstorm ideas with people from different sectors and communities. [Register](#) now!

### Webinar: Municipal Leadership in Climate Adaptation and Resilience (Tamarack Institute)

**Date: April 30, 2025 @ 10-11 am PT**

Discover how Canadian cities and communities are tackling extreme weather events and leading climate adaptation efforts. This free [webinar](#) will provide valuable insights and strategies for building resilient communities.

## Funding opportunities

### School Food Infrastructure Grant (United Way BC)

**Deadline: April 8, 2025**

Improve school food programs in BC with grants up to \$50,000. Not-for-profit organizations can use the [funds](#) for buying, updating, leasing, or sharing food infrastructure, such as equipment for food preparation, storage, and transportation. Join the [virtual information session](#) on March 4, 2025, at 11 am PT for more details.

### Transportation Fund: Capital Project stream (Government of Canada)

**Deadline: April 9, 2025**

Local, regional, provincial/territorial, and Indigenous governments, as well as public sector and non-profit organizations, can [apply](#) for funding to support new construction, infrastructure enhancement, and safety improvements that encourage active transportation.

### **Green Jobs Initiative 2025: Call for Applications (Canadian Parks and Recreation Association)**

**Deadline: April 11, 2025**

Learn more about the [Green Jobs Initiative](#) and how to [apply](#) for funding. Local governments and other sector organizations are encouraged to apply to the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association's Green Jobs Initiative program to secure direct financial support for nearly 140 jobs that focus on green career-related activities.

### **Community Emergency Preparedness Fund: Public Notification and Evacuation Route Planning (Government of BC)**

**Deadline: April 25, 2025**

This [funding](#) supports the development of evaluation route plans and public notification plans for emergencies.

### **IMAGINE Community Grants (Northern Health)**

**Deadline: May 16, 2025 (intake open on April 4, 2025)**

The [Northern Health IMAGINE Community Grant](#) supports community-based projects with a focus on mental wellness, community diversity, harm reduction, climate health action, food security, active living, and/or community safety. Northern BC community organizations, schools, Indigenous organizations, and local government are eligible to apply for grants of up to \$10,000.

### **FireSmart Pilot Program for Regional District Cooperative Community Wildfire Response Organizations (Union of BC Municipalities)**

**Deadline: May 30, 2025**

[The FireSmart Pilot Program](#) provides funding to regional districts in BC to increase community resiliency and to help build a cooperative pathway for wildfire response by providing training and purchasing personal protective equipment for areas without structural fire protection.

### **Active Transportation Planning program grants (Union of BC Municipalities)**

**Deadline: September 30, 2025**

Local governments with populations under 25,000 can [apply](#) for up to \$30,000 for active transportation planning.

### **Local Community Accessibility Grants (SPARC BC)**

**Deadline: Ongoing until March 2026**

Municipalities and regional districts in BC can [apply](#) for up to \$25,000 to support persons with disabilities. This funding helps remove barriers identified by local government Accessibility Committees or Accessibility Plans.

### **Regional Homebuilding Innovation Initiative (Government of Canada)**

**Deadline: March 31, 2026, or when funding is fully exhausted**

This [initiative](#) supports the residential homebuilding supply chain in BC. It advances innovative homebuilding solutions and boosts manufacturing efficiency.

### **Homelessness Community Action Grants Program (SPARC BC)**

**Deadline: Ongoing**

Apply for one-time [funding](#) to support local planning and collaborative initiatives that address the needs of those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

### **Northern Healthy Communities Fund (Northern Development Initiative Trust)**

**Deadline: Ongoing**

If your community is nearby an LNG Canada or Coastal GasLink project, apply for the [Northern Healthy Communities Fund](#) to help manage the economic growth from major development projects.

## **Northern Health Stories**

### **Dietitians share their favourite no-fuss weeknight meals**

“What’s for dinner?” On some busy weeknights that question can really make me cringe! Maybe my meal prepping plans didn’t quite work out, or I didn’t make it to the store, or we forgot to defrost something. Life happens, and even with a well-thought-out, flexible menu plan, we can still find ourselves scrambling to feed our families and ourselves on busy days.....[continue reading](#).

See the latest stories at [stories.northernhealth.ca](https://stories.northernhealth.ca).

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