

Northern Health Healthy Communities E-Brief

August 2023

Northern Peer Support Grant: Investing in peer-run organizations

The Northern Peer Support Grant program invested \$110,000 into five peer-led organizations that promote [harm reduction](#) and address substance use challenges across Northern BC communities. Peer-run organizations are uniquely positioned to reach people who may not engage with healthcare services and can offer a range of support services tailored to the needs of their communities.



Northern Peer Network Gathering 2022

The following organizations show a strong commitment to reducing harm related to substance use and use innovative approaches to support people who use drugs:

- **Coalition of Substance Users of the North (CSUN) – Quesnel** creates mentor roles for People with Lived and Living Experience (PWLLE) that enhance services at their Overdose Prevention Site and expand support services.
- **Uniting Northern Drug Users (UNDO) - Prince George** creates job opportunities for peers and provides a safe space for people who use substances. Their mobile outreach program includes overdose response training and the distribution of naloxone and harm reduction supplies.
- **Society for Narcotic and Opioid Wellness (SNOW) – Dawson Creek** holds bi-weekly meetings and events for peers, distributes harm reduction supplies, and focuses on community work, peer mentorship, education, and training.
- **William Morrison** is creating a peer-led organization in the Northwest. The main priority of this group will be to work with PWLLE as stewards for change and to create a range of supports that meet the needs of PWLLE in the Northwest.
- **Society for Narcotic and Opioid Wellness (SNOW) - Fort St. John** has a Peer Outreach Team available five days a week and engages with peers in the community.

Learn more about Northern Health's [overdose prevention supports and resources](#), or contact Peer.Grants@northernhealth.ca for more information about the Northern Peer Support Grant program.

For Your Information

International Overdose Awareness Day

Date: August 31, 2023

August 31 marks [International Overdose Awareness Day](#), an annual worldwide event with the goals to raise awareness about drug poisoning and outdated drug policies, to remember those who have lost their lives to the toxic drug supply, and to promote a sense of community and unity among those affected. Through community events, memorials, and outreach activities, International Overdose Awareness Day strives to unite people and organizations in a joint effort to inspire positive change and save lives. The day serves as a call to action for policymakers and communities to learn more about the toxic drug supply and to involve people with lived and living experience in implementing strategies that address the complexities of substance use. Tune into Northern Health's social media channels to learn about what is happening in communities.

Share Your Opinion

Youth engagement opportunity: Prenatal education for young parents

The [SmartMom Prenatal Education Texting Program](#) is available to all pregnant parents in BC. Northern Health and the University of BC School of Population and Public Health are working together on an exciting project: Parenting Young. We want to hear from pregnant and newly parenting young people (ages 21 years or younger) in your communities. We hope this engagement will help us learn how to best offer prenatal education program to this unique audience. We are looking to hire youth who are pregnant or parenting, as project assistants or advisors in our project. Help us connect with interested youth in your communities! You can post our [job descriptions](#) and [posters](#), share our [social media](#), and email us (contact@smartmomcanada.ca) your ideas about where and how to connect with young parents across Northern BC.

Resources (toolkits, reports, websites)

SAVE ME

BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) has updated and refreshed their [SAVE ME resource](#). While the steps included in this resource for opioid overdose remain the same as before, the resource now includes responding to a stimulant overdose infographic that can be used by a wide variety of responders across various settings.

Events & Learning Opportunities

School Garden Mentorship Program

Dates: September 12 & 21, October 3 & 12, 2023

Farm to School BC is offering a series of free monthly after-school [online workshops](#) to support K-12 educators in BC with planning, creating, or revitalizing a school garden.

Funding Opportunities

Food Systems Program Grants

Deadline: August 8, 2023

The [Food Systems Program](#) supports food sovereignty and security efforts for First Nations communities throughout BC. Grants of up to \$5,000 are available to support communities in that effort. It is also a great opportunity for networking and knowledge sharing.

Main Street Revitalization Planning Program

Deadline: August 11, 2023

The Northern Development Initiative and Trust [Main Street Revitalization Planning Program](#) provides local governments with funding to complete downtown revitalization planning and result in a community-wide vision for the downtown, and an action plan that identifies ways to achieve the vision.

Community Climate Transitions Innovation Fund

Deadline: August 24, 2023

Are you doing local climate work and looking for funding to start or scale your project? Advance community-led climate action and innovation with the Tamarack Institute's [Community Climate Transitions Innovation Fund](#).

Climate Change Adaptation Program

Deadline: September 22, 2023

The Natural Resource Canada's Climate Change Adaptation Program is soliciting proposals for cost-shared projects that will make important contributions to advancing adaptation progress in Canada. Up to \$15 million in funding may be awarded through this [Call for Proposals](#).

Community Gaming Grants

Deadline: Application deadlines vary

[Community Gaming Grants](#) provide \$140 million annually to not-for-profit organizations throughout BC., to support their delivery of ongoing programs and services that meet the needs of their communities. Local organizations can apply for up to \$125,000, and Regional/Provincial organizations can apply for up to \$250,000.

Climate Fund Finder

Deadline: Ongoing

Planning a climate action project? Need financial support? Not sure where to start? The [Funding Finder](#) is the tool for you. By answering a few questions, you'll be on your way to learning which programs fit your program best. If you're still looking for project ideas, the Funding Finder can show you a range of possibilities to help spark your imagination.

Emergency Preparedness and Response Funds - Older Adults

Deadline: Ongoing

United Way has released [Emergency Preparedness and Response funds](#) to help communities better support older adults and Elders during times of extreme weather events. This grant supports organizations, local governments, and First Nations communities in their efforts to plan for and respond to extreme weather emergencies through practical, innovative, and/or low-barrier solutions.

Northern Healthy Communities Fund

Deadline: Ongoing

The [Northern Healthy Communities Fund](#) (NHCF) supports initiatives that assist healthy, sustainable, and resilient communities facing rapid and large-scale economic development and associated need for enhanced social services. Projects in communities that are nearby the Coastal GasLink and LNG Canada projects are eligible. This fund has both capital and capacity building streams.

Provincial Homelessness Grants

Deadline: Ongoing

The Social Planning and Research Council of BC (SPARC BC) [Homelessness Community Action Grant](#) provides one-time funding for local planning and collaborative initiatives designed to better respond to the needs of those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Funding supports community-based action including demonstration projects, partnerships, research, and other collaborative efforts.

Welcome Home Kits Deadline: Ongoing

[New Welcome Home Kits](#) provide household items and essential supplies to individuals and families throughout the province as they transition into more stable housing. The approximate value of each kit is \$450. Organizations interested in participating in the Welcome Home Kits program can email info@sparc.bc.ca or call (604) 718-7736.

Northern Health Stories

Wildfire smoke

The Northern Health region experienced an earlier than normal wildfire smoke season and given the recent wildfire activity and the weather forecasts, it looks like we should be ready for smoky air through the summer. Early on, I pulled out my [portable indoor air cleaner with HEPA filtration](#) and made sure I'm signed up for provincial smoky skies bulletins through the [air quality subscription service](#). ...[continue reading](#).

See the latest stories at stories.northernhealth.ca

E-Brief Information

The Healthy Northern Communities [E-Brief](#) is produced by [Northern Health's regional Population and Preventive Public Health program](#).

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