

Northern Health Healthy Communities E-Brief

June 2025

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

Thank you for joining us!

We enjoyed connecting with everyone at the North Central Local Government Association Annual General Meeting and Convention in Prince Rupert last month. Congratulations to the winners of our trade show booth prize draw. A donation will be made in each winner's name to a charity or community group of their choice:

- Northwest: Leonard Gunno, Councillor, Gitlaxt'aamiks Village Government
- Northern Interior: Kris Nielsen, Councillor, District of Fort St. James
- Northeast: Tony Zabinsky, Councillor, City of Fort St. John

Resources

Northern BC Healthy K to 12 Schools Newsletter (Issue 8)

The Northern BC Healthy K to 12 Schools Newsletter shares helpful updates for schools, students, and families across the region. In this [issue](#), you'll find information on immunization, physical activity, mental wellness, and more.

Wildfire smoke (BC Centre for Disease Control)

Wildfires and smoke have always occurred in BC, but they are becoming more frequent and severe as the climate changes. Wildfire smoke is a form of air pollution that can affect your health. The BCCDC has created fact sheets with information about wildfire smoke and its health impacts, including information on how to prepare for wildfire season. You can view and download the fact sheets [here](#).

Events and learning opportunities

ParticipACTION Community Challenge

Dates: June 1 to 30, 2025

Let's make Northern BC one of Canada's most active regions! Join the [ParticipACTION Community Challenge](#) and get your community moving. Canada's Most Active Community wins \$100,000, with additional prizes available for each province and territory. How to participate:

- [Register](#) your municipality or community organization
- Plan local activities and encourage participation
- Track your progress on the ParticipACTION app or website

Webinar: Age-friendly Communities - From Policy to Practice: Making Transportation Work for Older Adults

Date: June 4, 2025 at 10:30 to 11:30 am PT

[Join](#) BC Healthy Communities to learn practical strategies and real-life examples for improving transportation systems for older adults.

National Health and Fitness Day

Date: June 7, 2025

Celebrate National Health and Fitness Day! Whether you're a resident, community organization, or local government, there are many ways to take part. Browse this [page](#) to learn more.

Parks Symposium – virtual plenaries

Dates: June 12 and 13, 2025

Can't attend the Canadian Inclusive Green Spaces Symposium in person? Join virtually! The Canadian Parks and Recreation Association is offering three free [plenary sessions](#) so you can engage with the conversations shaping the future of green spaces in Canada.

Funding opportunities

Infrastructure planning grant program (Government of BC)

Deadline: June 11, 2025

Up to \$10,000 is available for municipalities and regional districts. These [grants](#) support the development or improvement of long-term infrastructure plans, like water and sewer systems, asset management, and stormwater systems.

Food Systems Program Grant: Supporting Indigenous Food Sovereignty (Indigenous Sport, Physical Activity & Recreation Council)

Deadline: June 13, 2025

Indigenous communities and organizations in BC can [apply](#) for this grant to support sustainable food sovereignty and food security initiatives. Communities can apply for up to \$5,000 to support projects like gardens, food harvesting, preserving food, or food skills workshops. An extra \$3,000 is available for learning and sharing knowledge through the "Learning Together, Growing Together" program.

Disaster Resilience & Innovation Funding Program (Government of BC)

Deadline: June 27, 2025

This [program](#) funds projects by local and Indigenous governments to improve climate change resilience. Eligible activities include data collection, risk mapping, emergency planning, and innovative solutions that reduce climate risks.

Event and Youth Initiative Grants (Canadian Race Relations Foundation)

Deadline: July 4, 2025

Community organizations across Canada can apply for [funding](#) to support anti-racism events and youth initiatives. [Register](#) for an information webinar on June 4 at 11:00 am PT.

Healthy Communities Grants (PlanH)

Deadline: July 7, 2025

Local governments and Indigenous governments in BC can apply for [grants](#) to strengthen health equity and well-being in their communities. These grants support projects that foster community connectedness and healthy public policy.

Active Transportation Planning program grants (Union of BC Municipalities)

Deadline: September 30, 2025

Local governments in BC with populations under 25,000 can [apply](#) for up to \$30,000 to develop active transportation plans. These plans help make communities safer and easier to navigate by cycling, walking, or using other forms of active transportation.

First Nation Funding Grants (New Relationship Trust)

Deadline: December 5, 2025 or when funding is fully exhausted

These [grants](#) support First Nations in BC for a wide range of community-led projects, including [youth programs](#), [education](#), [language revitalization](#), [elder initiatives](#), and [nation building](#).

Local Community Accessibility Grant Program (SPARC BC)

Deadline: Ongoing until March 2026

Up to [\\$25,000](#) is available for BC municipalities and regional districts to remove barriers for people with disabilities. Projects must be identified by local government Accessibility Committees or Accessibility Plans and completed by March 31, 2026.

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.

BC Community Climate Funding Finder (Clean BC)

Deadline: Ongoing

Looking for climate action funding? Try the [BC Community Climate Funding Finder](#) to find the right grants for your project.

Homelessness Community Action Grants Program (SPARC BC)

Deadline: Ongoing

One-time [funding](#) is available for projects that address homelessness through planning and collaboration.

Northern Healthy Communities Fund (Northern Development Initiative Trust)

Deadline: Ongoing

Communities near LNG Canada or Coastal GasLink projects can [apply](#) for funding to support social infrastructure and manage the economic growth from major development projects.

Northern Health Stories

Roll into spring with GoByBike week

Remember that “feels like flying” feeling while riding your bicycle on some grand adventure? What if I said you could have that feeling again, even if the adventure is maybe not as grand, because it is just going about your daily life? Spring [GoByBike Week](#) is coming up from Saturday, May 31 to Friday, June 6, and if you haven’t already been out on two wheels this season, I encourage you to use this event as a motivator to get out there whenever you can....[continue reading](#).

Period of PURPLE Crying Program: Bringing families, volunteers, and health care together

[Volunteers](#) are invaluable in the health care system, lending their time to promote health and provide services to Northerners. This spirit of collaboration is evident in our recent winter campaign to raise awareness about the [Period of PURPLE Crying Program \(PURPLE\)](#). Read on to learn more about this program and the role volunteers played to make it possible....[continue reading](#).

See the latest stories at stories.northernhealth.ca.

E-Brief subscription information

To subscribe, send a blank email to healthycommunities@northernhealth.ca with “subscribe” in the subject line.

To unsubscribe, send a blank email to healthycommunities@northernhealth.ca with “unsubscribe” in the subject line.

If you have any questions about our list and your privacy, please phone 250-637-1615.

