

# Northern Health Healthy Communities E-Brief

May 2025

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

### Let's Talk About Placemaking

#### Canadian Urban Institute

[Let's Talk About Placemaking](#) is a new publication developed collaboratively by Canada's Placemaking Community, the Canadian Urban Institute (CUI), PlacemakingUS, and a range of leading practitioners across Canada and internationally. It's a visually rich resource that provides a comprehensive look at the value created by contemporary placemaking in Canada.

### The Great BC School Food Cookbook

This [new cookbook](#) showcases 60 recipe and stories created by classrooms across BC using BC ingredients. It is designed to inspire school meal programs and chefs to get creative in the kitchen.

## Events and learning opportunities

### Climate Change and Health in British Columbia: From Risk to Resilience

**Date:** May 8, 2025, 10 to 11 am PT

Climate change is one of the most pressing health challenges of our time. Here in British Columbia, we are already experiencing the impacts of climate change with extreme heat, wildfires, floods, and droughts becoming more frequent and severe. Join this [webinar](#) to learn about the [Climate Change and Health in British Columbia: From Risk to Resilience](#) report, which highlights effective and equitable measures that can be taken across government, multiple sectors, and the health system to support a healthy, climate resilient and sustainable British Columbia.

### Northern Health Healthy Communities Forum

**Date:** May 12, 2025

[Register](#) for the Healthy Communities Forum by May 7. In the morning join Northern Health's [Healthy Communities team](#) to explore community health topics that interest you most. Engage in meaningful dialogue and learn from each other about strengthening healthy communities in Northern BC. While there are many influences in our lives today, it is at the local level where policies and plans directly affect the health and well-being of our citizens. Local leaders play a crucial role in shaping the conditions that impact the health of individuals and communities. They create places and spaces that cultivate belonging, inclusion, connectedness, and engagement.

In the afternoon, join Northern Health leaders dedicated to Health Human Resources. Learn about the efforts undertaken by the Province and Northern Health to improve the recruitment and retention of health care workers, including Indigenous peoples. Hear from a panel of other local government officials, staff, and community partners about the innovations undertaken to bring health care staff to their communities (and keep them there). Participate in dialogue on how community assets can help with local planning to support recruitment and retention.

### **Streets for Life: Unlocking the many benefits of safe walking and cycling**

**Date:** May 12, 2025

This [webinar](#) will launch World Health Organization's new toolkit "Promoting walking and cycling: a toolkit of policy options" and present the case for walking and cycling as forces for health, sustainable transport, road safety, equity, and climate resilience.

### **Rural Minds Matter Townhalls**

**Dates:** May 13, 14, and 15, 2025

Overcome challenges and building resilience to face crisis. Join these free community sessions, hosted by [Stigma-Free Mental Health](#) and [AgSafe/AgLife BC](#), to discuss your experiences, and hear solutions for living, and thriving, in rural and remote regions.

[Register](#) for events in Terrace (May 13), Prince George (May 14), and Fort St. John (May 15).

### **Webinar series: Agriculture, food systems literacy, and secondary schools**

**Dates:** May 15 and May 27, 2025

This webinar series is designed for educators, administrator, community partners and anyone interested in strengthening the connection between agriculture, food systems, and secondary schools in BC. Throughout the series, participants will learn from educators who have successfully created BAA certified courses related to agriculture and found innovative ways to embed agriculture into the existing curriculum. To learn more or register: <https://farmtoschoolbc.ca/cultivating-curiosity/>

### **From then to now: Community voices on food access and climate change in remote BC**

**Date:** May 22, 2025, 10 to 11 am PT

In this [webinar](#), community members from multiple remote communities across BC will share their lived experiences with food access and reflect on how conditions have changed – or remained the same – since their original stories were shared as part of the [Food Access and Climate Change Impact Stories project](#).

## Funding opportunities

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

**Deadline:** May 16, 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.

### **2 Billion Trees Program (Government of Canada)**

**Deadlines:** May 15, 2025, and September 18, 2025.

Learn more about the [2 Billion Trees \(2BT\) program](#) and apply today. The 2BT program will process and assess proposals based on the submission date and provide decisions at specific intervals. There are two different streams: 1.) Tree Planting Stream: for organizations, including for-profit organizations and non-profit organizations interested in tree planting projects, and 2.) Indigenous Funding Stream: for Indigenous governments/communities/organizations interested in tree planting and/or capacity building projects.

### **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.

### **First Nation Funding Grants - New Relationship Trust**

**Deadline:** December 05, 2025 (or when funds are exhausted)

**Opening:** May 13, 2025

The [Youth Grant](#) program provides funding to youth groups in First Nation communities to support inclusiveness, belonging, physical and mental well-being, cultural, traditional, creative, and entrepreneurial activities.

The [K-12 Education Grant](#) program provides funding for First Nation Kindergarten to Grade 12 classes to support learning environments that support them to aspire to and experience greater opportunities for higher educational outcomes.

The [Language Grant](#) program provides funding to First Nation communities for initiatives that revitalize First Nation languages and supports activities that build capacity to encourage and create new fluent speakers.

The [Elder Grant](#) program provides funding to elder groups in First Nation communities to improve access, experiences, and activities for maintaining inclusion, belonging, cultural, emotional, mobility, health, and physical well-being.

The [Nation Building program](#) provides multi-year funding to First Nations and Tribal Councils to support their nation building activities. Eligible projects and initiatives include those that are meant to strengthen the institutional, governance, and community capacities.

See [First Nations - New Relationship Trust](#) for other granting opportunities.

### **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**

### **The power of community connections: A path to better health and well-being**

Imagine living in a place where people greet each other warmly, offer help when needed, and celebrate special moments together. A strong sense of community can change our lives for the better...[continue reading](#).

### **Thriving Indigenous food systems benefit all people, and our planet**

Earth Day 2025 calls on us to recognize [Our Power, Our Planet](#) — not just in terms of

renewable energy, but also the power of communities to lead climate action....[continue reading](#).

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

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