

BOARD AGENDA



Cariboo Chilcotin
Regional Hospital District



**CARIBOO CHILCOTIN REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT
MEETING AGENDA**

March 1, 2024

9:30 a.m.

**Cariboo Regional District Board Room
Suite D - 180 Third Avenue North
Williams Lake, B.C.**

Pages

1. CALL TO ORDER

(The meeting is scheduled to commence at 9:30 a.m.)

1.1 Adoption of Agenda

Corporate Vote - Unweighted

That the agenda be adopted as presented.

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

**2.1 Minutes of the Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District Board Meeting -
February 9, 2024**

3 - 14

Corporate Vote - Unweighted

That the minutes of the Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District Board meeting held February 9, 2024, be adopted.

3. BYLAWS FOR CONSIDERATION OF THREE READINGS AND ADOPTION

3.1 Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure (NH – Building Integrity) Bylaw No. 222, 2024

15 - 18

Corporate Vote - Weighted

#1: That Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure (NH – Building Integrity) Bylaw No. 222, 2024 be read a first, second and third time this 1st day of March 2024.

#2: That Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure (NH – Building Integrity) Bylaw No. 222, 2024 be adopted this 1st day of March 2024.

4. INFORMATION ITEMS

4.1	Northern Health Community News - February 2024	19 - 29
4.2	Interior Health - Passing of Dr. Doug Cochrane	30 - 30

5. ADJOURNMENT

Corporate Vote - Unweighted

That the meeting of the Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District Board be adjourned at TIME, March 1, 2024.



**CARIBOO CHILCOTIN
REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT
MINUTES**

February 9, 2024

9:30 a.m.

**Cariboo Regional District Board Room
Suite D - 180 Third Avenue North
Williams Lake, B.C.**

PRESENT: Chair A. Richmond, Vice-Chair M. Sjostrom, Director B. Bachmeier, Director J. Massier, Director S. Forseth, Director M. Neufeld, Alternate Director C. Bullinger, Director M. Wagner, Director J. Glassford, Director T. Pare, Director B. Anderson, Director E. de Vries, Director E. Coleman, Director R. Paull, Director S. Rathor, Director M. Pinkney, Director J. Smith

ABSENT: Director M. LeBourdais

STAFF: M. Daly, Chief Administrative Officer, A. Johnston, Manager of Corporate Services/Deputy CAO, K. Erickson, Chief Financial Officer, G. Pinchbeck, Manager of Communications, G. Hilliard, Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Adoption of Agenda

Corporate Vote - Unweighted

Director Glassford left the meeting.

CCH.2024-2-1

Moved Director Paull

Seconded Director Rathor

That the agenda be adopted as presented.

Carried

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Minutes of the Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District Board Meeting - January 12, 2024

Corporate Vote - Unweighted

CCH.2024-2-2

Moved Director Massier

Seconded Director Pare

That the minutes of the Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District Board meeting held January 12, 2024, be adopted.

Carried

3. BYLAWS FOR CONSIDERATION OF THREE READINGS AND ADOPTION

3.1 Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure (IH – CMH Pharmacy Upgrade) Amendment Bylaw No. 189(1), 2024

Corporate Vote - Weighted

CCH.2024-2-3

Moved Director Rathor

Seconded Director Pinkney

That Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure (IH – CMH Pharmacy Upgrade) Amendment Bylaw No. 189(1), 2024, be read a first, second and third time, this 9th day of February 2024.

Carried

CCH.2024-2-4

Moved Director Rathor

Seconded Director Pinkney

That Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure (IH – CMH Pharmacy Upgrade) Amendment Bylaw No. 189(1), 2024, be adopted, this 9th day of February 2024.

Carried

3.2 Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure (IH – South Cariboo Health Centre, Fisher Place, Mill Site Lodge – Fire Alarm System Upgrades) Bylaw No. 212, 2024

Corporate Vote - Weighted

CCH.2024-2-5

Moved Director Wagner

Seconded Director de Vries

That Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure (IH – South Cariboo Health Centre, Fisher Place, Mill Site Lodge – Fire Alarm System Upgrades) Bylaw No. 212, 2024 be read a first, second and third time this 9th day of February 2024.

Carried

CCH.2024-2-6

Moved Director Massier

Seconded Director Wagner

That Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure (IH – South Cariboo Health Centre, Fisher Place, Mill Site Lodge – Fire Alarm System Upgrades) Bylaw No. 212, 2024 be adopted this 9th day of February 2024.

Carried

Director Glassford returned to the meeting.

3.3 Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure (IH – OMH Pharmacy Upgrade) Amendment Bylaw No. 192(1), 2024

Corporate Vote - Weighted

CCH.2024-2-7

Moved Director Bachmeier
Seconded Director Glassford

That Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure (IH – OMH Pharmacy Upgrade) Amendment Bylaw No. 192(1), 2024, be read a first, second and third time this 9th day of February 2024.

Carried

CCH.2024-2-8

Moved Director Rathor
Seconded Director Pinkney

That Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure (IH – OMH Pharmacy Upgrade) Amendment Bylaw No. 192(1), 2024, be adopted this 9th day of February 2024.

Carried

3.4 Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure (IH – SCHC Primary Care Network) Amendment bylaw No. 207(1), 2024

Corporate Vote - Weighted

CCH.2024-2-9

Moved Director Massier
Seconded Director de Vries

That Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure (IH – SCHC Primary Care Network) Amendment Bylaw No. 207(1), 2024, be read a first, second and third time, this 9th day of February 2024.

Carried

CCH.2024-2-10

Moved Director Wagner
Seconded Director Rathor

That Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure (IH – SCHC Primary Care Network) Amendment Bylaw No. 207(1), 2024, be adopted, this 9th day of February 2024.

Carried

S. Masun, Manager of Intergovernmental Relations joined the meeting.

3.5 Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure (IH – Primary Care Project – Williams Lake) Bylaw No. 213, 2024

Corporate Vote - Weighted

CCH.2024-2-11

Moved Director Glassford

Seconded Director Anderson

That Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure (IH – Primary Care Project – Williams Lake) Bylaw No. 213, 2024 be read a first, second and third time this 9th day of February 2024.

Carried

CCH.2024-2-12

Moved Director Rathor

Seconded Vice-Chair Sjostrom

That Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure (IH – Primary Care Project – Williams Lake) Bylaw No. 213, 2024 be adopted this 9th day of February 2024.

Carried

3.6 Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure (IH – South Cariboo Health Centre, Fisher Place, Mill Site Lodge – Fire Alarm System Upgrades) Bylaw No. 212, 2024

Corporate Vote - Weighted

CCH.2024-2-13

Moved Director Glassford
Seconded Director Bachmeier

That Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure (IH – Cariboo Memorial Hospital and Leased Sites - Planning for Community Consolidation) Bylaw No. 214, 2024 be read a first, second and third time this 9th day of February 2024.

Carried

CCH.2024-2-14

Moved Vice-Chair Sjostrom
Seconded Director Neufeld

That Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure (IH – Cariboo Memorial Hospital and Leased Sites - Planning for Community Consolidation) Bylaw No. 214, 2024 be adopted this 9th day of February 2024.

Carried

3.7 Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure (IH – Mill Site Lodge – Replacement of Direct Exchange Unit) Bylaw No. 215, 2024

Corporate Vote - Weighted

CCH.2024-2-15

Moved Director Pare
Seconded Director Massier

That Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure (IH – Mill Site Lodge – Replacement of Direct Exchange Unit) Bylaw No. 215, 2024 be read a first, second and third time this 9th day of February 2024.

Carried

CCH.2024-2-16

Moved Director Rathor
Seconded Director Paull

That Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure (IH – Mill Site Lodge – Replacement of Direct Exchange Unit) Bylaw No. 215, 2024 be adopted this 9th day of February 2024.

Carried

3.8 Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure (IH – Cariboo Memorial Hospital – Staff Housing Renovation) Bylaw No. 216, 2024

Corporate Vote - Weighted

CCH.2024-2-17

Moved Director Smith

Seconded Director Anderson

That Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure (IH – Cariboo Memorial Hospital – Staff Housing Renovation) Bylaw No. 216, 2024 be read a first, second and third time this 9th day of February 2024.

Carried

CCH.2024-2-18

Moved Director Rathor

Seconded Vice-Chair Sjostrom

That Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure (IH – Cariboo Memorial Hospital – Staff Housing Renovation) Bylaw No. 216, 2024 be adopted this 9th day of February 2024.

Carried

3.9 Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure (IH – Deni House – Condensing Unit Replacement) Bylaw No. 217, 2024

Corporate Vote - Weighted

CCH.2024-2-19

Moved Director Anderson

Seconded Director Bachmeier

That Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure (IH – Deni House – Condensing Unit Replacement) Bylaw No. 217, 2024 be read a first, second and third time this 9th day of February 2024.

Carried

CCH.2024-2-20

Moved Director Glassford
Seconded Director Rathor

That Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure (IH – Deni House – Condensing Unit Replacement) Bylaw No. 217, 2024 be adopted this 9th day of February 2024.

Carried

3.10 Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure (IH Wide Digital Health) Bylaw No. 218, 2024

Corporate Vote - Weighted

CCH.2024-2-21

Moved Director Smith
Seconded Director Paull

That Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure (IH Wide Digital Health) Bylaw No. 218, 2024 be read a first, second and third time this 9th day of February 2024.

Carried

CCH.2024-2-22

Moved Director Wagner
Seconded Vice-Chair Sjostrom

That Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure (IH Wide Digital Health) Bylaw No. 218, 2024 be adopted this 9th day of February 2024.

Carried

3.11 Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure (IH – OHM Controlled Substance Manager) Bylaw No. 219, 2024

Corporate Vote - Weighted

CCH.2024-2-23

Moved Director Pare

Seconded Director Massier

That Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure (IH – OHM Controlled Substance Manager) Bylaw No. 219, 2024 be read a first, second and third time this 9th day of February 2024.

Carried

CCH.2024-2-24

Moved Director Massier

Seconded Director Glassford

That Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure (IH – OHM Controlled Substance Manager) Bylaw No. 219, 2024 be adopted this 9th day of February 2024.

Carried

3.12 Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure (IH – Cariboo Memorial Hospital – Steam Sterilizer) Bylaw No. 220, 2024

Corporate Vote - Weighted

CCH.2024-2-25

Moved Director Glassford

Seconded Director Anderson

That Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure (IH – Cariboo Memorial Hospital – Steam Sterilizer) Bylaw No. 220, 2024 be read a first, second and third time this 9th day of February 2024.

Carried

CCH.2024-2-26

Moved Director Rathor
Seconded Director Pinkney

That Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure (IH – Cariboo Memorial Hospital – Steam Sterilizer) Bylaw No. 220, 2024 be adopted this 9th day of February 2024.

Carried

3.13 Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District 2024 Five-Year Financial Plan Bylaw No. 221, 2024

Corporate Vote - Weighted

CCH.2024-2-27

Moved Director Wagner
Seconded Director Pare

That Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District 2024 Five-Year Financial Plan Bylaw No. 221, 2024 be read a first, second and third time this 9th day of February 2024.

Carried

CCH.2024-2-28

Moved Director Bachmeier
Seconded Vice-Chair Sjostrom

That Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District 2024 Five-Year Financial Plan Bylaw No. 221, 2024 be adopted this 9th day of February 2024.

Carried

5. ACTION ITEMS

5.1 Northern Health/Regional Hospital Districts Memorandum of Understanding Renewal

Corporate Vote - Weighted

CCH.2024-2-29

Moved Director Forseth
Seconded Director Bachmeier

That the appropriate signatories be authorized to enter into the Memorandum of Understanding renewal between Northern Health and the Hospital Districts.

Carried

5.2 Northern Health Request for Building Integrity Funding

Corporate Vote - Weighted

CCH.2024-2-30

Moved Director Massier
Seconded Director Bachmeier

That funding for Northern Health's Building Integrity in the amount of \$147,801, reflecting the CCRHD's 40% portion of cost, be approved and that the necessary bylaw be brought forward to the Board at its March 1, 2024 meeting for consideration of three readings and adoption.

Carried

6. ADJOURNMENT

Corporate Vote - Unweighted

CCH.2024-2-31

Moved Director Rathor
Seconded Director Paull

That the meeting of the Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District Board be adjourned at 9:51 a.m., February 9, 2024.

Carried

Chair

Manager of Corporate Services

Date: 22/02/2024

To: Chair and Directors, Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District

And To: Murray Daly, Chief Administrative Officer

From: Alice Johnston, Manager of Corporate Services/Deputy CAO

Date of Meeting: March 1, 2024

File: Hospital

Short Summary:

Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure (NH – Building Integrity) Bylaw No. 222, 2024

Voting:

Corporate Vote - Weighted

Memorandum:

At its February 9, 2024 meeting, the CCRHD Board resolved the following:

That funding for Northern Health's Building Integrity in the amount of \$147,801, reflecting the CCRHD's 40% portion of cost, be approved and that the necessary bylaw be brought forward to the Board at its March 1, 2024 meeting for consideration of three readings and adoption.

Bylaw No. 222 is hereby presented in accordance with the above-noted resolution.

Attachments:

Bylaw No. 222

Financial Implications:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Policy Implications:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

CAO Comments:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Options:

1. Endorse recommendations;

2. Other action;
3. Defer.

Recommendation:

#1: That Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure (NH – Building Integrity) Bylaw No. 222, 2024 be read a first, second and third time this 1st day of March 2024.

#2: That Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure (NH – Building Integrity) Bylaw No. 222, 2024 be adopted this 1st day of March 2024.

CARIBOO CHILCOTIN REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE BYLAW NO. 222

WHEREAS, the Board of the Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District proposes to expend money for the capital expenditure described in Schedule "A" attached hereto and forming an integral part of this Bylaw;

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of the Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District, duly assembled in open meeting, enacts the following Capital Expenditure Bylaw as required by the *Hospital District Act*;

1. The Board hereby authorizes and approves the expenditure of money as described in Schedule "A" attached hereto and totaling \$147,801.
2. The payment that the Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District is responsible for shall be funded through monies budgeted in the current year of operation.
3. The Board hereby delegates the necessary authority to the Chief Financial Officer, to settle the terms and conditions of the expenditure.

This Bylaw may be cited for all intents and purposes as the "Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure (NH - Building Integrity) Bylaw No. 222, 2024".

READ a first time this ___ day of ____, 2024.

READ a second time this __ day of ____, 2024.

READ a third time this ___ day of ____, 2024.

ADOPTED this __ day of ____, 2024.

Chair

Corporate Officer

I hereby certify this to be a true copy of "Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure (NH - Building Integrity) Bylaw No. 222, 2024".

Corporate Officer

SCHEDULE "A"

CARIBOO CHILCOTIN REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT

SHAREABLE CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

BYLAW NO. 222

Name of Facility	Project Description	CCRHD Share (40%)	Total Project Cost
Northern Health	Building Integrity	\$147,801	\$369,503

What's going on in Northern Health?

Welcome to the Northern Health community update! Stay connected as we bring you monthly updates and valuable insight into health care in the North.

Northern Health's strategy for sexual and reproductive health: Share your voice

Have you heard? Northern Health is creating its very first sexual and reproductive health strategy. The strategy will support local health care teams to strengthen the services they provide to folks in Northern BC. Wondering how you can get involved? [Read more on our stories website!](#)



We want to hear from you!
Sexual and reproductive health survey

Northern Health Lab Outpatient Improvement Project wins BC Quality Award

The Northern Health Lab Outpatient Improvement Project (LOIP) has been awarded the BC Quality Award for [Excellence in Quality: Strengthening Health & Wellness](#) by [Health Quality BC](#) (HQBC).



STRENGTHENING
HEALTH & WELLNESS

Northern Health Lab Outpatient
Improvement Program

The LOIP was launched with a goal to address long wait times for accessing outpatient lab services throughout Northern BC. Through LOIP, NH labs began offering a blended service model of scheduled and unscheduled lab appointments. With this model, patients can self-schedule either online using the [HealthElife](#) portal or by phone. [Read more on our stories website!](#)

January 2024 Mills Memorial Hospital Replacement Project Update

Hot off the press! Check out the [January 2024 update](#) for the Mills Memorial Hospital (MMH) Replacement project in Terrace. Here's a snapshot what we're sharing this month:

- Virtual tours (videos) of the inside of the new hospital and Seven Sisters
- MMH stories and memories
- What a new hospital in Terrace means for surrounding communities



For more info about the project, visit [Let's Talk MMH](#)

The benefits of a new hospital in one community expand beyond that facility. A new hospital in one community benefits the entire region. [Learn more](#) about how the new Mills Memorial Hospital in Terrace will help improve patient care throughout Northwest BC.

Dawson Creek & District Hospital Replacement Project

The [January 2024 quarterly update](#) is now available on [Let's Talk DCDH](#)! Read the full update to learn about the progress being made on the construction of the new hospital, upcoming exciting milestones, and engagement initiatives. Other exciting news includes [employment opportunities with Northern Health](#) at the current and future hospital as well as the [DCDH construction camera](#), which is available any day, any time.



With an investment value of approximately \$590 million, the [DCDH Replacement Project is ranked #92](#) on the [2024 Top100 Canada's Biggest Infrastructure Projects Report](#). This annual report is published by [ReNew Canada](#), an infrastructure magazine that ranks and profiles the country's largest public infrastructure projects.

Province of BC funds consultation on Northern centre of excellence for children, youth

Northern Health President and CEO Ciro Panessa joined Premier David Eby, Chief Dolleen Logan of Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, and various partners Tuesday as the Premier announced a consultation and engagement process that will help design and plan programs and services for a proposed regional centre in Prince George to help children and youth thrive. For more information, [read the full release](#).



Appropriate use of the emergency department and options for accessing health care

Emergency rooms in the North are under 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](https://www.healthlinkbc.ca) or speak to a nurse at 8-1-1
- Talk to your local pharmacist about their expanded services [Book an appointment with a pharmacist](#).
- 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](#).

Respiratory illness season continues

Healthy habits can help protect you, your loved ones, and your communities.

- Stay up to date with your flu and COVID-19 vaccines
- Stay home if you're sick
- Clean your hands well and often
- Wear a mask if you have cold/flu symptoms or are getting over an illness
- Cover your coughs and sneezes



Vaccines are free and available at pharmacies, health authority clinics, and some primary-care providers' offices. Register and book through the Get Vaccinated system at getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca or call 1-833-838-2323 to schedule an appointment. For more information, visit: <http://northernhealth.ca>

Respiratory illness season continues

Healthy habits can help protect you, your loved ones, and your communities.

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Northern Health Story highlights

The [Northern Health Stories site](#) is a great place to read about what's going on in Northern Health – people, places, projects, and more! Here are some recent highlights:



- [WHO declares loneliness a “global public health concern”](#)
- [Improvements to Chetwynd General Hospital’s lab help support better patient care](#)
- [Dr. Natasha DeSousa joins prestigious emergency leadership program](#)
- [Active Communities Grant helps Tumbler Ridge improve access to its world-class geological park](#)
- [Active Communities Grant helps Tumbler Ridge improve access to its world-class geological park](#)
- [Come for the experience, stay for the supportive work environment!](#)
- [Spotlight on our people: Kris Kristjanson, GoHealth BC travel nurse](#)
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- [Helping tired parents: Ways you can support their self-care after baby arrives](#)
- [“Your gift is life changing”: NICU nurses thank Northern human milk donors](#)
- [Take part in the 24-hour smoke break challenge: Weedless Wednesday!](#)
- [Northern Health’s strategy for sexual and reproductive health: Share your voice](#)
- [A new baby can bring joy – and anxiety, depression, and sadness](#)

Ministry of Health highlights

Including highlights from the [Ministry of Health](#) and [Ministry of Mental Health & Addictions](#) that are of interest to all BC residents:

- [New self-screening program will help detect cervical cancer sooner](#)
- [Access to HPV vaccine expanded to males born in 2005](#)
- [Vaccines providing better protection still available in B.C.](#)
- [B.C. funds consultation on northern centre of excellence for children, youth](#)



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](#).

Physician Recruitment launches new jobsite

NH Physician Recruitment (NHPR) has launched a new and improved jobsite! NHPR will have more control over their postings, and interested physicians will have more search options and an easier way to apply! Check the site out here: [Job Search | Physician Jobs](#)



Shining a light on 2023 successes

Northern Health knows there is a long way to go before our staffing shortage is solved; however, we also want to celebrate some accomplishments from 2023. The progress highlighted here only scratches the surface of what Northern Health, the Province of BC, and other partners have worked on over the last year [in support of the provincial Health Human Resources Strategy](#).



Northern Health has also:

- Added housing units for health care workers in Valemount and Vanderhoof.
- Added 84 childcare spaces for health workers' children across the region.
- Adopted virtual profession-specific job fairs to assist with recruitment.

On top of the Health Career Accesses Program (HCAP), we have partnered with more post-secondary institutions to increase the number of programs/ professions:

Program / profession	Post-secondary institution	Details
Medical lab assistant	Thompson River University	7 grads in 2023
Rehab assistants	Capilano University	5 grads starting in May 2024
Combined laboratory X-ray technologist	Northern Alberta Institute of Technology	5 NH employees in program
Mental health support workers	University of Vancouver Island	Funding approved for 15 training seats in 2024
Indigenous-specific health care assistants	Native Education College & Thompson River University	2 First Nations communities included

PUBLIC HEALTH

More than 2,500 lives lost to toxic drugs in 2023

Preliminary reporting released by the BC Coroners Service confirms that toxic, unregulated drugs claimed the lives of at least 2,511 people in British Columbia in 2023, the largest number of drug-related deaths ever reported to the agency.

“Tragically, toxic, illicit drugs are continuing to cause unprecedented numbers of deaths across our province,” said Lisa Lapointe, Chief Coroner. “This crisis, driven primarily by unregulated fentanyl, has cost our province dearly in the loss of much-loved and valued members of our communities. We cannot bring our deceased loved ones back, but we can and must do much more to protect the lives of tens of thousands of our family members, friends and colleagues still at risk.” [Read more from this news release.](#)



Minister's statement on lives lost to poisoned drugs in 2023

Jennifer Whiteside, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, has released a statement regarding the BC Coroners Service year-end report on illicit drug toxicity deaths. [Read that statement here.](#)



PHO recommends prescribed safer supply policy continue

A report released by Dr. Bonnie Henry, British Columbia's Provincial Health Officer (PHO), provides a review of the provincial prescribed safer supply (PSS) policy and makes recommendations aimed at improving the lives of people who use drugs in BC and supporting clinicians in this work. [Read more.](#)



Toxic Drug Alert: Prince George – January 10, 2024

There has been an increase in overdoses in the community of **Prince George** linked to dark purple drug sold as “down.” This substance is causing slow, irregular breathing needing naloxone despite being awake. Individuals are requiring continued monitoring and encouragement to breathe.



Population & Public Health has issued a toxic drug alert for the community of **Prince George**. Please distribute broadly to those who would benefit from this information.

For more information, [visit our website](#). To sign up for text-based drug alerts for Northern Health and other health regions, text JOIN to 253787

Position on Homelessness, Equity, and Health

In October 2021, the Health Officers Council of BC declared homelessness an urgent public health crisis, forming a working group. By May 2022, the group presented a draft paper and surveyed members, finding unanimous support for advocating, managing diseases, and providing care for the homeless. Recognizing housing and homelessness as critical public health issues in BC, the council aims to highlight their interconnectedness with equity and health. Their position paper aims to raise awareness, set advocacy foundations, clarify roles, and offer human-rights-centered recommendations. The HOC expects a thorough provincial inquiry into data, leveraging evidence for lasting change while respecting Indigenous rights and acknowledging historical harms. Access the [position paper](#) here.



OVERDOSE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Understanding Prolonged Sedation and How to Respond

The unregulated drug supply, containing unknown and harmful substances, often includes opioids like fentanyl, possibly contaminated with stimulants, fillers, and other unexpected elements. Sedatives found in these substances can intensify sedation, leading to prolonged unresponsiveness, a condition not reversible with naloxone. Benzos or xylazine, among others, may be present in BC's unregulated drug supply, causing people to become unresponsive. Educate yourself on how to [respond to prolonged sedation](#) and [learn more](#) about this topic.



Prepare for extreme cold weather: A guide for housing service providers

Toward the Heart has a comprehensive guide for housing service providers which focuses on preparing for extreme cold weather and its detrimental health effects. The guide highlights critical health risks during cold weather for vulnerable groups, including people who are unhoused, those who use substances, the elderly, and those with specific health conditions. It highlights potential health effects including hypothermia, frostbite, and exacerbation of chronic conditions.



Emphasizing housing service providers' role in protecting at-risk populations, it strongly encourages actions such as accepting clients during extreme weather, following disease prevention recommendations, and seeking emergency medical help if needed. The full document can be accessed [here](#). Additionally, for specific information on naloxone and its reactions at different temperatures, refer to this [document](#).

Take-Home Naloxone in BC Infographic

The BCCDC has recently updated the data on the distribution of take-home naloxone kits, displaying active distribution sites in BC, the yearly shipment count to these locations, and the number of reported kits uses to reverse toxic drug poisoning. You can access the take-home naloxone in BC infographic by clicking [here](#).



For Immediate Release | Feb. 20, 2024

Interior Health statement on the passing of Dr. Doug Cochrane

KELOWNA – Interior Health president and CEO Susan Brown has issued the following statement on the loss of Interior Health Board Chair Dr. Doug Cochrane:

“I am deeply saddened by the passing of Dr. Doug Cochrane, Chair, Interior Health Board of Directors.

“Dr. Cochrane joined Interior Health in 2017, and every day since then, he demonstrated a deep commitment to continuous improvement of patient care, quality and safety knowing it would lead to improved health outcomes for the people we serve. Doug leaves a lasting legacy as he guided our reconciliation efforts from a personal commitment to listening and learning from Indigenous peoples in the Interior, their histories and how the current systems in place have impacted them directly. Indigenous health and wellness were of particular importance to Doug as he served as Co-Chair of both the First Nations and Métis partnership leadership tables.

“Doug’s contributions to British Columbia’s health-care system overall are unparalleled, having chaired the BC Patient Safety Task Force from its inception in 2003 to the creation of the BC Patient Safety & Quality Council (now known as Health Quality BC) and as the provincial patient safety and quality officer from 2008 to 2019. Doug was also past chair of the Canadian Patient Safety Institute.

“Doug was a highly esteemed mentor and educator, with more than three decades of clinical expertise as a pediatric neurosurgeon. He was appointed Professor Emeritus by the UBC department of surgery in 2016 and served as faculty for the Health Quality BC Quality Academy and Clinician Quality Academy programs, as well as the Sauder Physician Leadership program at UBC.

“I will miss Doug as a colleague, mentor, and friend and remember him for his kind and gentle approach to leadership, always willing to take on the toughest of challenges in the most human of ways.

“On behalf of Interior Health, I extend our deepest sympathies to his family and loved ones during this difficult time.”

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