



HEALTHY COMMUNITIES NEWSLETTER



May 2025

Our Healthy Communities team works with Indigenous communities, municipalities, regional districts and other partners to create opportunities for all people to live well. Healthy built and natural environments, along with supportive social and economic circumstances, are the essential building blocks for health. Topics within the newsletter reflect this broad scope. Learn more about the [Healthy Communities team](#), find your [local team member](#) or visit our [website](#).

In most issues, you'll find:

Community Recognition

Advancing Healthy Public Policy

Events & Learning Opportunities

Funding Opportunities

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION





Town of Princeton Launches Poverty Reduction Plan

Congratulations to The Town of Princeton for completing its 10-year poverty reduction action plan, [A Place to Call Home: Strategy for Reducing Housing Challenges and Homelessness in Princeton, BC](#). The plan prioritizes the voices of those with lived experience of poverty and housing insecurity, aiming to reduce poverty through a collaborative, multi-sectoral approach that addresses housing challenges with policies, programs and partnerships.

Rail Trail Update: Two More Sections Complete

Rail Trail partners—Splatsin te Secwépemc, the Columbia Shuswap Regional District, and the Regional District of North Okanagan—recently announced that [two more sections of the Splatsin te Secwépemc/Shuswap North Okanagan Rail Trail have been completed](#), and construction is now proceeding on the next section of trail between Sicamous and Armstrong. Since 2015, trail partners have been collaborating to develop the 50-kilometre greenway for walking and cycling.

Penticton Temporary Winter Shelter Shows Positive Results

Recognizing that housing is essential to health and wellbeing, [100 More Homes Penticton](#) partners—including the City of Penticton—launched a 24/7 winter shelter for 2024–25, now extended through May. [A City report shows](#) the shelter contributed to reducing emergency calls, helped many shelter residents transition to permanent housing and treatment, and enabled Interior Health staff to deliver hundreds of medical services to shelter residents.



ADVANCING HEALTHY PUBLIC POLICY



Healthy Community Development and Official Community Plans

The Official Community Plan (OCP) is instrumental in shaping the built, social, economic and natural environments, directly influencing the conditions that impact community well-being and health outcomes. By embedding health-focused policies into OCPs and prioritizing inclusive, health-conscious planning, local government leaders can promote economic growth, enhance social well-being, and reduce healthcare costs.

Check out this [infographic](#) that demonstrates all the ways an OCP can impact health outcomes and contribute to healthy community development.

Inclusivity Resource Guide

An inclusive, diverse and equitable work environment within local government doesn't just improve the well-being of its employees—it has far-reaching effects on the health of the entire community. Check out this [new guide](#), which outlines four key ways to lead with empathy, curiosity and accountability.



Misperceptions of Homelessness in Mid-size Cities

Visible homelessness is new in many mid-sized cities, and residents are struggling to accept this reality. A disconnect exists between how residents see their city and how people actually live and move through it, which is harmful for unhoused people and the community, overall.

[Researchers recently examined](#) this tension in a mid-size city in western Canada, and this [report](#) offers some useful perspectives for decision-makers and other interested parties.

EVENTS & LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES



Webinar: Climate Change and the Built Environment | Resiliency through Building Design and Housing

Friday, May 30, 2025 | 10-11AM PST

This session will feature expert speakers presenting three new resources to support climate-resilient, equitable communities:

- [Climate Change, Health Equity and the Built Environment](#) (SHIFT Collaborative)
- [Realizing Resilient Buildings in BC](#) (BC Housing)
- [Close to Home: how to build more housing in a changing climate](#) (Canadian Climate Institute)

[Register Here](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



Infrastructure Planning Grant Program

This Government of BC [grant program](#) helps municipalities and regional districts develop and/or improve long-range comprehensive plans to support sustainable community infrastructure systems. Up to \$10,000 is available for plans that focus on asset management, integrated stormwater management, and liquid waste, as well as water master plans.

Application due June 11, 2025

Disaster Resilience & Innovation Funding Program

The Government of BC is providing [funding](#) to First Nations and local governments in BC to enhance communities' resilience to climate change. Funding can be used for projects that increase community resilience by: providing data, building partnerships, supporting long-term disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation planning, and structural and non-structural disaster risk reduction projects.

Application due June 27, 2025

Plan H Healthy Communities Grants

BC Healthy Communities is providing [funding](#) to support Indigenous and local governments to advance policies, programs and strategies aimed at improving health equity and well-being.

There are two funding streams: Community Connectedness and Healthy Public Policy.

Application due July 7, 2025



This newsletter is brought to you by the Healthy Communities Program with Interior Health.

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