

From: IH Healthy Communities <healthycommunities@interiorhealth.ca>

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To: Alice Johnston <AJohnston@cariboord.ca>

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April 2026

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](#).



Community Recognition

From Vacant Lot to Wildfire Resilience: How Barriere is Innovating to become FireSmart

The District of Barriere is [taking a proactive step toward community health and wellbeing in a warming climate by transforming a vacant lot into a FireSmart Showcase](#). The plan to demonstrate how wildfire mitigation can be both beautiful and resilient, this project highlights local leadership in protecting homes, infrastructure, and neighbourhoods in a high-risk wildfire zone. Funded through provincial resiliency grants, the initiative blends climate adaptation, education, and placemaking, showing how smart land stewardship can strengthen safety, connection, and quality of life for the whole community.



Lake Country Lights the Way for Pedestrian Safety

Vulnerable road users — joggers, cyclists and pedestrians - children, seniors, and people using mobility aids or pushing a stroller - face the greatest risk in traffic incidents. With funding from [Vision Zero](#), the District of Lake

Country was able to install [new pedestrian-activated warning lights at a dangerous corner](#). They are a practical and visible step toward creating a culture of shared responsibility on our roads.



Wildfire Resilience Toolkit for Small Municipalities

[This toolkit](#) from the Green Municipal Fund provides step-by-step guidance, templates, and examples to help municipalities reduce wildfire risks, protect infrastructure and ecosystems, and build community resilience using practical, nature-based and strategic solutions.

Flood Resilience Toolkit for Small Municipalities

Green Municipal Fund's [Community Flood Resilience Toolkit](#) provides step-by-step guidance, templates and examples to help municipalities reduce flood risks, protect infrastructure and build community resilience using practical, nature-based solutions. Access the toolkit to explore practical, on-the-ground activities your community can implement.





Events and Learning Opportunities

ONLINE COURSE: Tackling Energy Use in Your Municipal and Community Buildings

This course series from the Green Municipal Fund offers four self-paced, free, online courses for you to choose from that cover topics such as municipal leadership, community-scale energy solutions, and policies and programs designed to support community members. Once you have registered, the course you selected will be available to you for three months and it is estimated to take less than 10 hours to complete each course. You can take any number of courses and in any order, depending on your municipal priorities and needs.

[Register Here](#)

WEBINAR: Advancing the Accessible BC Act: Recommendations for Municipalities

Wednesday, May 13 | 10:30AM PST

Co-hosted by BC Healthy Communities and the City of Powell River, this one-hour online session will demonstrate how municipalities can advance the BC Accessibility Act by transforming programs, services, spaces, communications, and policies to better serve children with disabilities and their families. The webinar centers on four protective factors for child and youth well-being published by BC Healthy Communities and Vancouver

Coastal Health: Participation, Play, Safety, and Social Connection and Belonging.

[Register Here](#)



WEBINAR: Advancing High-Performance Gentle Density Housing

Tuesday, April 21 | 8:00 - 11:30 AM PST

This free webinar from [Small Housing BC](#) brings a multidisciplinary group into the same room, with the tools, best practices, and shared understanding needed to discuss the challenges earlier in the process.

[Register Here](#)

WEBINAR: Building Sustainable Age-Friendly Communities Through Partnerships and Community Connection

Tuesday, April 28 | 10:30AM PST

As British Columbia's population ages, communities face growing pressure to adapt programs, services, and policies to better meet the needs of older residents. This webinar will examine how cross-sector collaboration - spanning local and Indigenous governments, regional health authorities, and

community organizations - can strengthen the resilience and inclusivity of age-friendly initiatives over the long term.

[Register Here](#)



Funding Opportunities

2026 PlanH Healthy Communities Grants

The [2026 Plan H grants](#) are now open! There are [two streams](#):

- 1) **Community Connectedness funding stream** (up to \$5,000) for projects that foster relationship-building among community members and create long-lasting partnerships.
- 2) **Healthy Public Policy stream** (up to \$15,000) for projects that will create or update existing policies to improve the health and well-being of community members.

Applications due June 2, 2026.



Disaster Resilience and Innovation Funding Program

The [Disaster Resilience and Innovation Funding \(DRIF\)](#) program provides funding to First Nations and local governments in B.C. to enhance their capacity to withstand and adapt to natural and climate-driven hazards. The program is currently accepting EOIs for structural disaster risk reduction projects for the following hazards: drought and water scarcity, erosion, extreme temperature, flood, geohazards (for example avalanche, landslide), sea level rise, seismic, storm, tsunami, and others as eligible.

Expressions of interest (EOIs) for structural projects are being accepted until **May 1, 2026**.



FireSmart Community Funding and Supports

The [FireSmart Community Funding and Supports](#) program through UBCM offers grants to help B.C. local governments and First Nations strengthen wildfire resiliency through community-based FireSmart planning and activities. The program has now transitioned into the 2026 Winter/Spring Closed Intake.

All applications due April 30, 2026.

How would you rate this issue of the Healthy Communities Newsletter?

lowest [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [6](#) [7](#) [8](#) [9](#) [10](#) highest



We recognize and acknowledge that we are collectively gathered on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the seven Interior Region First Nations, where we live, learn, collaborate and work together. This region is also home to 15 Chartered Métis Communities. It is with humility that we continue to strengthen our relationships with First Nation, Métis, and Inuit peoples across the Interior.

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