

Calls to Action Accountability: A 2021 Status Update on Reconciliation

The [Yellowhead Institute](#) is a First Nation-led research centre based in the Faculty of Arts at X University (formerly Ryerson University) in the Faculty of Arts. Yellowhead is focused on policies related to land and governance, and privileges First Nation philosophy and is rooted in community networks. Yellowhead Institute recently published a report that outlines the status update on the [Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action](#).

Here is a synopsis of the report:

“It has now been six years since the Truth and Reconciliation Commission released its six-volume Final Report along with the 94 Calls to Action; meant to remedy the ongoing structural legacy of Canada’s residential schools and to advance reconciliation in Canada. Framed by the recent revelations of thousands of children’s graves discovered on the grounds of several residential schools and by signs of a new resolve among Canadians to work toward reconciliation, this year’s report finds three new Calls to Action have been completed.”



For Your Information

A look back at 10 years of PROOF: Food Insecurity Policy Research

Food insecurity is a policy decision. It exists because people do not have adequate financial resources to meet basic needs and our current policies fail to ensure that they do. We know this from having over 20 years of Statistics Canada data on food insecurity. Twenty-seven years ago, the first questions about households’ inability to meet their food needs due to financial constraint appeared on national surveys. Sixteen years ago, Statistics Canada began systematically monitoring household food insecurity. Ten years ago, we formed the research program, PROOF, bringing together researchers from universities across North America to examine this data and identify effective solutions to this problem. To read more, visit [PROOF](#).

Stop the Stigma BC

People with addiction deserve compassion and support. So do their families. Make the connection. Have the conversation. Stop the stigma. Learn more at StopOverdoseBC.ca and [watch the campaign video](#).

Youth Development Instrument Timeline: January-March 2022

The Youth Development Instrument (YDI) is a self-report survey administered *free of charge* to Grade 11 students to learn about their social and emotional development, health, and well-being. The study is conducted in collaboration with HELP-UBC which implements the Early Development Instrument (EDI) and Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI) in many BC school districts. The YDI's first pilot was conducted in the Spring of 2021 and was administered to >2,000 students across six school districts and an independent school. Reports and [infographics of findings](#) were shared back with the public and the team held the first [YDI Symposium](#) in October 2021. If you're interested in participating in the next pilot phase in January-March 2022 or would like to learn more, please reach out to Dr Hasina Samji (hsamji@sfu.ca) or the YDI team (ydi@sfu.ca). The team can also share an implementation info session recording.

Rapid COVID-19 Point of Care (POC) test kits – Indigenous communities

Rapid COVID-19 POC test kits are available for Indigenous communities and individuals to support select screening initiatives in BC. Training materials and resources (including [Indigenous specific](#) resources) are available through the [BC Centre for Disease Control](#).

What is a Rapid POC Test? It is a device that can be used as a screening tool for COVID-19 in people with COVID-19 [symptoms](#). Tests are portable, quick, easy to use, and provide results usually within 15 to 20 minutes, making them suitable for screening programs.

How do I access COVID-19 rapid tests for my community? How do I get trained? Please email pochelpdesk@phsa.ca for information.

ParticipACTION: No Time to be Still – Sign the Letter

In response to continued decreasing rates of physical activity due in part to the COVID-19 pandemic, [ParticipACTION](#) has penned an open letter to the Canadian Government, urging them to prioritize accessible physical activity opportunities. Join the movement by [signing the letter](#) and/or [sharing campaign materials](#) across your networks.

Resources (toolkits, reports, websites)

Teach Food First: An Educators Toolkit for Exploring Canada's Food Guide

This new toolkit, developed by the Province of BC in partnership with public health dietitians, BC teachers, and Indigenous Knowledge Keepers, supports educators with strategies, resources, and curriculum-connected lessons to explore Canada's Food Guide in the classroom. For more information and to access the toolkit, visit [HealthySchoolsBC](https://www.healthyschoolsbc.ca).

Learning from the Land: Resources and Stories from K-12 School Engaging with Indigenous Plants and Pedagogy

This new resource features inspirational initiatives from different regions in BC as well as lesson plans to support educators with connecting students to local and traditional plants from their community. For more information, and to access the toolkit, visit [FarmtoSchoolBC](https://www.farmtoschoolbc.ca).

Events and Learning Opportunities

School Garden Mentorship Program

Date: Various dates, starting January 18, 2022

From January to October 2022, Farm to School BC is offering a free mentorship program to support K-12 educators in BC in the initial stages of creating or revitalizing a school garden. Monthly after-school workshops facilitated by experienced Farm to School staff will offer valuable tips and skills for developing and maintaining a school-based garden. For more information visit [Farm to School BC](https://www.farmtoschoolbc.ca).

Funding Opportunities

Language Revitalization Program

Deadline: January 25, 2022

The program supports First Nations communities in BC to develop comprehensive, long-term plans for revitalizing and strengthening their languages. This program provides up to \$100,000 in funding plus resources and coaching. These plans are a way to capture the community's vision for their language and map out the work for language revitalization into the future. For more information visit the [First Peoples' Cultural Council](https://www.firstpeoplescouncil.ca) webpage.

Green Infrastructure – Environmental Quality

Deadline: January 26, 2022

The third intake of the Environmental Quality (EQ) fund has been announced with up to \$270 million in new funds from the province and federal government. This is a cost-sharing program for infrastructure projects starting in 2023 and completing by 2026. Local governments are eligible for up to 73% of eligible project costs, while Indigenous recipients are eligible for up to 90%. For more information visit the [CivicInfoBC](#).

I-SPARC Equipment Grant Program

Deadline: January 31, 2022

I-SPARC's winter 2022 intake of applications for equipment grants are now open. Barriers to sport and physical activity have been further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. A maximum of \$3000 is available to support access to equipment. All First Nations, Metis Chartered Communities, and Friendship Centres are eligible to apply for the Equipment Grant, as well as some community not-for-profit organizations that deliver Indigenous sport, recreation, and/or physical activity programs. For more information visit [I-SPARC](#) website.

Farm to Cafeteria Canada Grants

Deadline: January 31, 2022

Farm to Cafeteria Canada grant application are now open and due January 31, 2022. Funding of up to \$10,000 is available to support bringing more local foods into schools using a salad bar or other meal service model. For more information and to apply, visit [Farm to Cafeteria Canada](#).

Indigenous Cultural Heritage Infrastructure Grant

Deadline: February 1, 2022

The goal of this grant is to support Indigenous communities to safeguard, revitalize, and celebrate their heritage through cultural heritage infrastructure projects that include the conservation of structures, cultural heritage sites, landscapes, buildings, and trails that support public and community access to cultural heritage resources. Grants are available between \$100,000 - \$400,000 to support projects that conserve, repair, or develop Indigenous cultural heritage infrastructure. For more information visit the [First Peoples' Cultural Council](#).

Rural, Remote, and Indigenous Food Security Action Grant

Deadline: February 4, 2021

Northern Health (NH) has collaborated with First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) to create the Rural, Remote, and Indigenous Food Action Grant. This grant is intended to support community food action across northern BC with the goal of improving food security within the region. Grants are available to a maximum of \$50 000. For more information visit the [Northern Health webpage](#).

Poverty Reduction Funding Intake

Deadline: February 11, 2022

A third intake for the [Poverty Reduction Planning & Action program](#) has been announced by the Ministry of Poverty Reduction and Social Development. Grants of \$25,000 to \$50,000. Regional applications with a grant maximum of \$150,000 will also be accepted from two or more local governments who wish to work collaboratively. Eligible applicants can submit one application per intake, including participation as a partnering applicant in a regional application. For more information visit [Union of BC Municipalities](#) webpage.

Peers Employment and Encouraging Resiliency (PEERS) grant

Deadline: On-going until October 1, 2022

The PEER Grant project seeks applications from non-profit organizations that create barrier-free, safe, and inclusive employment. The grant helps local non-profits provide Prince George's marginalized population (Peers) with access to low-barrier employment opportunities that value lived/living experience. This short-term project is funded by a UBCM 2021 Strengthening Communities Services Grant. For more information and to apply, visit the [City of Prince George Grants and Financial Assistance](#) webpage.

ParticipACTION Community Better Challenge Grant – Informational Webinar

Grant deadline: June 30, 2022; Webinar date: January 13, 2022

The ParticipACTION Community Better Challenge is coming back. Organizations can apply for grants to host activities and events to get their communities active throughout the month of June. Webinar attendees will learn about the Community Better Challenge, how and when to apply, what funds can be used for, about sample applications, fund recipient tracking, and reporting expectations. To sign up for the webinar visit the [ParticipACTION registration link](#).

Northern Health Stories

Looking back on a year of immunization milestones in the north: Photo memories

December 21, 2021 marked one year since the COVID-19 vaccine first arrived in the Northern Health region. Since then, we've reached vaccine milestones in all our communities and provided many unique vaccine clinic opportunities...[continue reading](#).

Building respectful relationships in COVID-19 times

Indigenous Health, Northern Health, and the National Collaborating Centre for Indigenous Health (NCCIH) present a new video called *Building Respectful Relationships in COVID-19 times*...[continue reading](#).

How to support people in your life who are impacted by addiction

Sometimes, people experiencing addiction may feel like everything is on them – staying safer, reaching out, getting help. Although it may feel hard to know how to support people in your life who are being impacted by addiction, connecting in compassionate ways can make a real difference...[continue reading](#).

See the latest stories at stories.northernhealth.ca.

E-Brief Information

The Healthier Northern Communities [E-Brief](#) is produced by [Northern Health's regional Population and Preventive Public Health program](#).

- **To subscribe**, send a blank email to healthycommunities@northernhealth.ca with “subscribe” in the subject line.
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To share information, articles or resources of interest to northern BC communities, send an email to healthycommunities@northernhealth.ca.

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