

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Northern Health and School District #57 to help provide kindergarten students with a healthy start**

Protecting children against childhood illness and ensuring they have a healthy future is the focus of the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Health Day Circuit for local kindergarten students. The program will be running from January 17<sup>th</sup> to February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012 at the Northern Interior Health Unit in Prince George.

"This is a creative and efficient way to ensure that our youngest learners get off to a healthy start. It is possible because of a strong partnership between healthcare providers and educators recognizing that a healthy start supports a successful education experience as well," said Shirley Bond, MLA for Prince George-Valemount.

Sponsored by Northern Health and School District #57, the circuit provides a one-stop venue for immunization; vision, dental and hearing screenings, as well as injury prevention and nutritional information. Parents are offered further support if their child is found to be in need.

"The kindergarten health day circuit promises to be a lot of fun for all participants," said Prince George-Mackenzie MLA Pat Bell. "Good luck to everyone participating in this creative and healthy event."

"The Health Day Circuit is a fun and effective way to help parents assess the health of their kindergarten-aged children," said Karen Wonders, Public Health Nursing Program Manager. "This 'one-stop venue' brings everyone together - parents, children and service providers - making for less disruption in the classroom and a more efficient use of time all around."

Approximately 1000 kindergarten children and their parents will be attending the Health Day Circuit. The program will be held in the Northern Interior Health Unit auditorium, located at 1444 Edmonton Street in Prince George.

"Healthy minds are much more effectively nurtured in healthy bodies," said Brian Pepper, School District #57 Superintendent. "The Health Day Circuit helps young children get off to a healthy start with their school career, so they can effectively learn as much as possible about the world around them."

For more information about appointment times for the Health Day Circuit, please contact the Northern Interior Health Unit at 565-7381. For any questions concerning immunization, please call 565-7477 to speak with a Northern Health school nurse.