

Brought to you by the [Northern Health Healthy Communities](#) team. We support local governments and community organizations in promoting health and well-being across Northern BC.

## Share your opinion

### Social Prescribing for Healthy Aging - Community Readiness Survey

**Deadline: January 10, 2025**

Is your community ready for social prescribing? Communities in BC without a Community Connector are invited to express interest in expanding this program, in partnership with United Way BC Healthy Aging. Learn more and complete the [survey](#).

## Resources (toolkits, reports, websites)

### Activate your Neighbourhood: A tactical guide

Learn how to create an inclusive neighbourhood with this [guide](#). It helps you re-imagine and re-purpose spaces to support activity and social connections. Moving more in our neighbourhoods brings us together, creates liveable spaces, and can reduce social isolation and loneliness.

### Avalanche Awareness Days: January 18-19, 2025

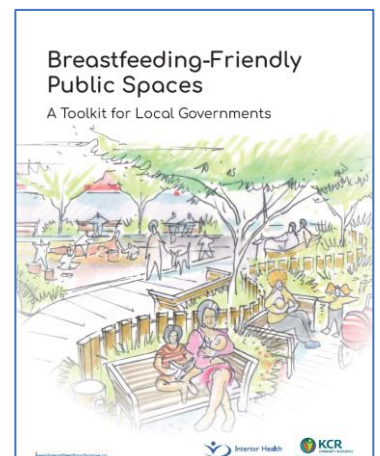
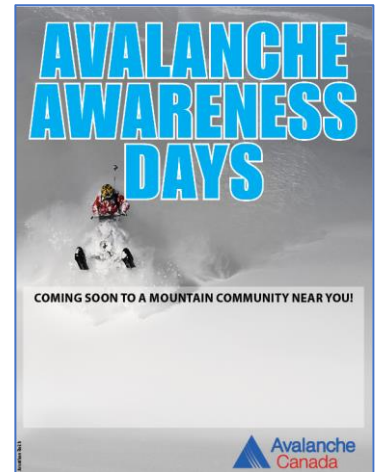
Canada's backcountry offers endless winter fun, but safety is key. Avalanche Awareness Days celebrate winter while promoting backcountry safety. Planning an event? Contact: [ngeismar@avalanche.ca](mailto:ngeismar@avalanche.ca) with details (event name, location, date, and contact information) and Avalanche Canada will help promote it.

Check out this [map](#) for more information.

### Breastfeeding-friendly public spaces: A toolkit for local governments

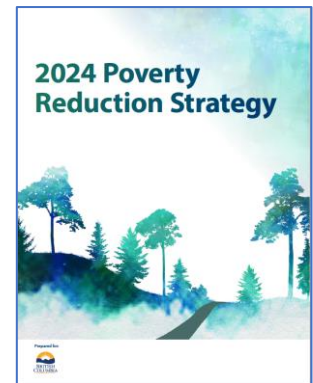
Breastfeeding/chestfeeding is linked to food security, sustainability, equity, truth and reconciliation, and health across the lifespan. Local governments can create spaces where parents feel safe and welcome to feed their children in public. This [toolkit](#) from Interior Health provides practical tools to create welcoming spaces and examples of community actions across Canada.

What small step could your community take? Email us at [Breastfeeding@northernhealth.ca](mailto:Breastfeeding@northernhealth.ca).



## Poverty Reduction Strategy

The [newly launched strategy](#) focuses on addressing systemic barriers that perpetuate poverty. Initiatives include increasing the minimum wage, enhancing access to affordable housing, and improving social programs and services in BC.



## Radon Awareness

Radon gas is a silent threat - colourless, odourless, and the second leading cause of lung cancer. Learn about [radon](#), check [radon levels](#) in your community, implement [policies](#) to reduce exposure, connect with a [Certified Mitigation Professional](#), and sign up for next year's [100 Radon Test Kit Challenge](#) for municipalities.

## Social Connection Guidelines

Social connection is as important as food and physical activity for our health, happiness, and longevity. Check out these new [guidelines](#) to foster healthy social lives at individual and community levels.

## Syphilis is on the Rise

Syphilis cases are on the rise in all ages and genders in the Northern Health region. Sexual health prevention is essential to overall well-being. What can we do?

- Talk: Normalize conversations about sexual health using culturally safe, trauma-informed approaches.
- Screen: Encourage routine sexually transmitted infection (STI) screening. [Find a clinic near you](#).
- Be Informed: Share resources like [SmartSexResource](#).

## Events and learning opportunities

### Webinar: How to enhance older adult participation in community programs

**Date: December 4, 2024 @10:30am PT**

Join a panel of experts as they share strategies to increase attendance and diversity in community programs. Sign up for this free [webinar](#).

### Webinar: Financial Barriers to Climate Action Implementation

**Date: January 13, 2025**

Financing climate action is a challenge for many local governments. Register for this free [webinar](#) to learn about creative solutions and funding opportunities.

## Seeking Expression of Interest for HUB Cycling's Everyone Rides Grade 4-5

Is your community ready to promote safe cycling for kids? HUB Cycling, in partnership with [CleanBC Move Commute Connect Active Transportation Strategy](#), seeks schools interested in the [Everyone Rides Grade 4-5](#) program. This 5-day cycling education program teaches students practical skills through fun activities and traffic scenarios. HUB Cycling provides all necessary resources at no cost to families. Contact [everyonerides@bikehub.ca](mailto:everyonerides@bikehub.ca) to express your school's interest.

## Funding opportunities

### School Health Grant for Youth (Government of Canada)

**Deadline: December 20, 2024**

Canadian students aged 16 to 19 can apply for a \$1,000 grant to create a project that encourages healthy living in a school setting. Focus areas include reducing substance-related harms, positive mental health and well-being, healthy eating, and physical activity.

### Transforming Systems Grants (Vancouver Foundation)

**Deadline: January 14, 2025**

These [grants](#) provide \$100,000 per year for three years to qualified organizations addressing the root causes of inequality. The grants support efforts that prioritize intersectionality, allyship, and mutual liberation.

### BC Indigenous Food Pathways Program

**Deadline: January 10, 2025**

The [Indigenous Food Pathways Program](#) provides strategic capacity-building funding. This funding can be used to create new projects, enhance existing programs, or improve group operations for Indigenous-led food systems and food security initiatives.

### Local Community Accessibility Grants (SPARC BC)

**Deadline: March 31, 2025**

Municipalities and regional districts in BC can [apply](#) for up to \$25,000 to support persons with disabilities by removing barriers identified by local government Accessibility Committees or Accessibility Plans. Projects must be completed by March 31, 2026.

### Active Transportation Planning program grants (Union of BC Municipalities)

**Deadline: September 30, 2025**

Local governments with populations under 25,000 can [apply](#) for up to \$30,000 toward active transportation planning.

### **#GreenMyCity Program (Green Cities Foundation)**

#### **Deadline: Ongoing**

Apply for a [#GreenMyCity grant](#) to restore and revitalize public spaces like parks, community gardens, sports fields, and playgrounds. Community groups, garden clubs, and youth organizations are encouraged to apply.

### **Homelessness Community Action Grants Program (SPARC BC)**

#### **Deadline: Ongoing**

Apply for one-time [funding](#) to support local planning and collaborative initiatives that address the needs of those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

### **Northern Healthy Communities Fund (Northern Development Initiative Trust)**

#### **Deadline: Ongoing**

Is your community nearby an LNG Canada or Coastal GasLink project? Apply for the [Northern Healthy Communities Fund](#) to help your community manage the economic growth from major economic development projects.

### **Secondary Suite Incentive Program (BC Housing)**

#### **Deadline: Open until funding is exhausted**

Do you know any homeowners who want to help create affordable housing? The [Secondary Suite Incentive Program](#) offers up to 50% of renovation costs (up to \$40,000) to develop a secondary suite rented below market value for at least five years.

### **Transit Minor Betterments Program (Government of BC)**

#### **Deadlines: Ongoing**

Public transit helps people access jobs and education, especially those with transportation challenges. [Apply](#) for up to \$100,000 through the [Transit Minor Betterments Program](#) for projects that improve the transit experience, such as bus stop shelters, lighting, accessibility improvements, and signage. Local governments, First Nations communities or organizations, and non-profit organizations are encouraged to apply. Projects must be completed by March 31, 2025.

## **Northern Health Stories**

### **Falls Prevention & Healthy Aging Grant**

In spring 2024, Northern Health was pleased to partner with the [Pacific Public Health Foundation](#) to provide the [Falls Prevention and Healthy Aging Grant](#). This one-time initiative, new in 2024, funded projects that help prevent falls and promote healthy aging for adults 55 years and older in our communities. This grant invited communities and organizations to apply for up to \$10,000 to fund projects that support falls prevention and healthy aging in the North.....[continue reading](#).

See the latest stories at [stories.northernhealth.ca](https://stories.northernhealth.ca).

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