

# Northern Health Healthy Communities E-Brief

February 2025

Welcome to the Northern Health Healthy Communities E-Brief. This monthly newsletter, brought to you by the [Healthy Communities](#) team, aims to keep local governments and community organizations in Northern BC informed about resources, upcoming events, and funding opportunities that promote health and well-being in our region.

## Resources

### 2024 BC Child Poverty Report Card

The new [BC Child Poverty Report Card](#) shows a sharp rise in child poverty in BC. One in six children (147,570 kids) live below the poverty line. The report includes recommendations for all levels of government.

### Climate Ready Infrastructure Service

This [service](#) connects local governments and communities with climate experts. It helps make infrastructure projects more resilient and low-carbon. It provides guidance and advice to better serve communities, reduce emissions, and tackle climate change.

### Cold weather resources

Cold weather can be [risky](#) for everyone. Communities can reduce these risks by planning and acting together. Visit the [BC Housing website](#) for more information on emergency weather shelters and the [Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness website](#) for details on daytime warming spaces.

### Social Connections Guidelines for Communities

Communities thrive when everyone feels connected and supported. These [new guidelines](#) offer ways to reduce loneliness, social isolation, and disconnection.

## Events and learning opportunities

### Brain Waves Online Program for grades 4 to 6

**Dates: Various dates in February 2025**

[Brain Waves](#) is a free program that teaches brain safety to students in grades 4 to 6. It is delivered by the BC Injury Research and Prevention Unit (BCIRPU). For more information and to register, email [bcinjury@bcchr.ca](mailto:bcinjury@bcchr.ca).

### Social infrastructure and community safety as catalysts for belonging

**Date: February 5, 2025 @10-11 am PT**

Join this free [webinar](#) to learn how parks, cultural programs, and community organizations can create a sense of belonging. These elements provide spaces for interaction, build trust, and promote community cohesion.

## **The Great BC School Food Cook-off**

**Dates: Now until March 1, 2025**

An exciting cooking contest is heating up this winter for BC students! Create a recipe as a class made with BC foods, get featured in a new digital cookbook, and win some great cash prizes. To learn more, visit the [Farm to School BC webpage](#).

## **Funding opportunities**

### **Community Grants Program (ICBC)**

**Deadline: February 21, 2025**

This [program](#) improves the lives of British Columbians by supporting community organizations with road safety and injury recovery initiatives.

### **Community Foundation grant (Canada Post)**

**Deadline: February 28, 2025**

The [Canada Post Community Foundation](#) provides grants for projects that support community, education, and health.

### **Local Food Infrastructure Fund (Government of Canada)**

**Deadline: February 28, 2025**

The [Local Food Infrastructure Fund \(LFIF\)](#) supports projects that strengthen community food security. It increases access to local, nutritious, and culturally appropriate food, especially for Indigenous and Black communities.

### **Active Transportation Fund: Capital Project stream (Government of Canada)**

**Deadlines: February 26 and April 9, 2025**

Local, regional, provincial/territorial, and Indigenous governments, as well as public sector and non-profit organizations, can [apply](#) for funding. This funding supports new construction, infrastructure enhancement, and safety improvements that encourage active transportation.

### **BC Healthy Aging Grant (United Way)**

**Deadline: March 7, 2025**

United Way's Healthy Aging team invites grantees to an [information session](#) on February 6, 2025, from 1-2:30 PT. Learn about the 2025-26 Healthy Aging Program Offerings and Enhancement Grants.

### **Community Emergency Preparedness Fund: Public Notification and Evacuation Route Planning (Government of BC)**

**Deadline: April 25, 2025**

This [funding](#) supports the development of evaluation route plans and public notification plans for emergencies.

### **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 for active transportation planning.

### **Local Community Accessibility Grants (SPARC BC)**

**Deadline: Ongoing until March 2026**

Municipalities and regional districts in BC can [apply](#) for up to \$25,000 to support persons with disabilities. This funding helps remove barriers identified by local government Accessibility Committees or Accessibility Plans.

### **Regional Homebuilding Innovation Initiative (Government of Canada)**

**Deadline: March 31, 2026 or when funding is fully exhausted**

The [Regional Homebuilding Innovation Initiative](#) supports the residential homebuilding supply chain in BC. It advances innovative homebuilding solutions and boosts manufacturing efficiency.

### **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.

### **Nature Smart Climate Solutions (Government of Canada)**

**Deadline: Open until funding is exhausted**

This [fund](#) supports projects that help meet Canada's 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan. Projects can include natural climate solutions, policy development, programs, incentives, and other tools to support emission reductions.

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

**Deadline: Ongoing**

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

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

**Deadline: Open until funding is exhausted**

With the [Secondary Suite Incentive Program](#), homeowners can get up to 50% of renovation costs (up to \$40,000). This funding helps develop a secondary suite rented below market value for at least five years.

## Transit Minor Betterments Program (Government of BC)

### Deadlines: Open until funding is exhausted

Public transit helps people access jobs and education, especially those with transportation challenges. [Apply](#) for up to \$100,000 for projects that improve the transit experience. These projects can include 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

### Ditch the diet: Rekindle a positive relationship with food

The start of a new year often brings resolutions to “eat healthier” (which is often code for trying to lose weight). With the latest weight-loss diets hitting the media, it’s easy to get swept up in it all...[continue reading](#).

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

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