

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.

## Share your opinion

### Button Battery Knowledge Survey

What do you know about button battery safety? The BC Injury Research and Prevention Unit (BCIRPU) at BC Children's Hospital Research Institute invites British Columbians to fill out a [survey](#) about their knowledge of button (sometimes called watch or coin) batteries. The online survey takes 3-5 minutes to complete, and participants will be entered into a draw to win a \$100 gift card.

## Resources

### Climate Toolkit for Housing Infrastructure

This [toolkit](#) offers tools, resources, and support for small communities aiming to develop low carbon and resilient housing and infrastructure. It includes access to technical experts who can help assess and identify options for both existing and new builds.

### March is Nutrition Month

March is Nutrition Month! This year, Northern Health dietitians are celebrating the joys of eating together. Did you know that eating together, with family or friends, supports healthy eating and mental wellness? Cooking and eating with others allows people of all ages to make valuable connections and lasting memories. Follow Northern Health's social media platforms for more information, tips, and to share why eating together is important to you.

To learn about nutrition for lifelong individual and community health, or to how to access a dietitian in or near your community visit: [Nutrition and dietitian services](#).

### Social Connection Guidelines

Just like food and exercise, social connections are crucial for our health and happiness. Check out these new [guidelines](#) for fostering healthy social lives at both individual and community levels.

## Events and learning opportunities

### **Webinar: Cleaner Air Spaces Virtual Roundtable**

**Date: March 5, 2025 @ 9:30-12:30 pm PT**

Join Health Canada for a free [virtual event](#) on creating cleaner air spaces. Learn from experts about managing indoor air quality and participate in discussions on improving air quality solutions in your community.

### **Webinar: Disconnect to Reconnect**

**Date: March 20, 2025 @ 10-11 am PT**

Feeling overwhelmed by constant digital connections? This free [webinar](#) will teach you simple ways to unplug and reconnect with yourself, nature, and your surroundings. Take a break and join this refreshing session.

### **Webinar: Municipal Leadership in Climate Adaptation and Resilience**

**Date: April 30, 2025 @ 10-11 am PT**

Discover how Canadian cities and communities are tackling extreme weather events and leading climate adaptation efforts. Whether you're a municipal leader, policymaker, or active resident, this free [webinar](#) will provide valuable insights and strategies for building resilient communities.

## Funding opportunities

### **New Indigenous Foodways in Schools Grants (Farm to Cafeteria Canada)**

**Deadline: March 29, 2025**

Farm to Cafeteria Canada is offering [grants](#) valued at \$500-\$20,000 to support Indigenous food security and food sovereignty projects in schools. Use the funding to buy equipment, support land-based learning, harvest, preserve, grow, and serve culturally relevant food in schools, connect with Knowledge Keepers, and more.

### **School Food Infrastructure Grant (United Way BC)**

**Deadline: April 8, 2025**

Improve school food programs in BC with grants up to \$50,000. Not-for-profit organizations can use the [funds](#) for buying, updating, leasing, or sharing food infrastructure, such as equipment for food preparation, storage, and transportation. Join the [virtual information session](#) on March 4, 2025, at 11 am PT for more details.

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

**Deadline: April 9, 2025**

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

**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**

This [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.

**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 this [BC Housing program](#), homeowners can get up to 50% of renovation costs (up to \$40,000) to develop a secondary suite rented below market value for at least five years.

## Northern Health Stories

### Staff testimonials: The importance of volunteers at NH facilities

Volunteers are an incredible support to Northern Health facilities, providing invaluable assistance and comfort to patients, residents, and staff alike....[continue reading](#).

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

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