

**DISTRICT OF 100 MILE HOUSE****FOR INFORMATION CORRESPONDENCE – November 20th, 2025
Received November 25th - Regular Council Meeting**

- South Cariboo Joint Committee Minutes – October 20th, 2025
- Correspondence from CRD Chair, Margo Wagner – Separation of Local Governments and First Nations Governments
- Correspondence from City of Williams Lake – 100 Mile District General Hospital Emergency Department Closures
- Correspondence from District of Hope, Clearwater and TNRD – Changes to BC Assessment Transmission Pipeline Valuation
- Correspondence from B. Thorsteinson – Skateboard Park location concerns
- Correspondence from Ministry of Children and Family Development – Adoption and Permanency Awareness month
- Correspondence from Westcoast Energy GP Inc. – Sunrise Expansion Project
- BC Rural Health Network November Newsletter
- Communities in Bloom November Newsletter



CARIBOO REGIONAL DISTRICT
SOUTH CARIBOO JOINT COMMITTEE MINUTES

October 20, 2025

12:00 p.m.

District of 100 Mile House Council Chambers
385 Birch Avenue
100 Mile House, BC

PRESENT: Co-Chair M. Wagner, Director E. de Vries, Co-Chair M. Pinkney,
Councillor D. Barnett, Councillor J. Guimond, Councillor D. Mingo,
Councillor M. Norgren

ABSENT: Director A. Richmond

STAFF: D. Campbell, Manager of Community Services, Cariboo Regional
District, T. Boulanger, CAO, District of 100 Mile House, J. Dickerson,
Manager of Recreation Services, District of 100 Mile House, T. Conway,
Director of Community Services, District of 100 Mile House

1. CALL TO ORDER - By Co-Chair M. Pinkney

1.1 Adoption of Agenda

SCJ.2025-10-01

That the agenda be adopted as presented with Item 4.1 being moved to after 2.1.

Carried

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Minutes of the South Cariboo Joint Committee Meeting - September 8, 2025

SCJ.2025-10-02

That the minutes of the South Cariboo Joint Committee meeting, held September 8, 2025, be adopted.

Carried

3. ACTION ITEMS

3.1 South Cariboo Recreation 2026-2030 Business, Financial and Capital Project Plans

SCJ.2025-10-03

That the 2026 five-year business and financial plans for the South Cariboo Recreation Services function and the South Cariboo Recreation Centre 2025-2028 capital plan be endorsed with an amendment to the 2026 budget to include \$200,000 for the water treatment project.

Carried

5. ADJOURNMENT

SCJ.2025-10-04

That the meeting of the South Cariboo Joint Committee be adjourned at 1:20 p.m., October 20, 2025.

Carried

Co-Chair

File:
0400-50-01

November 7, 2025

VIA EMAIL: ubcm@ubcm.ca

UBCM Executive

Dear UBCM Executive Members:

Re: Separation of Local Governments and First Nations Governments
During UBCM Engagement Sessions

On behalf of the Cariboo Regional District Board, I am writing to request an explanation as to why the UBCM continues to hold separate engagement sessions for Local Governments and First Nations Governments, as opposed to allowing for the opportunity for all parties to meet together to discuss important issues. This was the case during the Flood and Wildfire Review and, most recently, with the Heritage Conservation Act Engagement Sessions.

We find this process perplexing and extremely frustrating, given that the UBCM has committed to implementing the tenets of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act and the principles of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action. In our minds, holding separate engagement sessions goes against this commitment and prevents meaningful and productive interaction between Local Government and First Nations Government representatives.

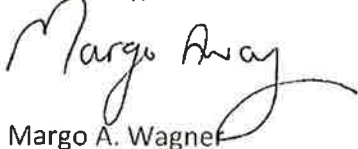
While we appreciate much of the work that the UBCM does in support of local government, it is our hope that, in this instance, changes can be made.

.../2

building communities together

Thank you for considering the Board's concerns. We look forward to your reply.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Margo A. Wagner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Margo" being the most prominent part.

Margo A. Wagner
Chair

cc: Honorable Spencer Chandra Herbert,
Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
MLA Lorne Doerkson, Cariboo-Chilcotin
MLA Sheldon Clare, Cariboo North
District of Wells Council
City of Quesnel Council
City of Williams Lake Council
District of 100 Mile House Council

October 31, 2025

File No. 0400-90

Mayor Maureen Pinkney and Council
District of 100 Mile House
PO Box 340, #1-385 Birch Avenue
100 Mile House, BC
V0K 2E0

Sent via email: district@100milehouse.com

Dear Mayor Pinkney and Council:

Re: 100 Mile District General Hospital Emergency Department Closures

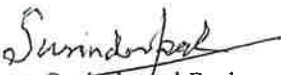
Thank you for providing the City of Williams Lake with a copy of your October 22, 2025 letter to Interior Health Authority expressing your concerns about the repeat emergency department closures at the 100 Mile District General Hospital.

Council agrees that these frequent closures are unacceptable, and that immediate, focused action must be taken by the Ministry of Health and Interior Health Authority to address these closures. The Emergency Room at Cariboo Memorial Hospital has also faced multiple temporary closures due to staff shortages, and Council has continued to advocate for measures to address the critical physician, nursing and medical professional shortage. In addition, when patients are diverted to Cariboo Memorial Hospital it significantly impacts our already overburdened emergency department.

In July 2024, City of Williams Lake Council passed a resolution to request the Interior Health Authority to conduct a review of the operations and management of Cariboo Memorial Hospital to help ensure functional, stable healthcare service delivery. We have been informed that the CEO and Board Chair conducted an operational audit in 2024 that identified opportunities for improvement that Interior Health is addressing. We are hopeful that a similar review will be undertaken for 100 Mile District General Hospital.

The City of Williams Lake has worked hard to establish timely communication and reporting from Interior Health, and continues to work with Interior Health to support better outcomes for our community. There is a critical need to have dependable healthcare in our communities and the broader region. Our communities must be able to rely on this essential service, and we fully support the District of 100 Mile House's call for Interior Health to provide answers and to work toward better delivery of essential healthcare services.

Yours truly,



Mayor Surinderpal Rathor

c: Hon. Josie Osborne, Minister of Health
MLA Lorne Doerkson, Cariboo Chilcotin
Chair Margo Wagner and Directors, Cariboo Regional District
Chair Al Richmond and Directors, Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District
Sylvia Weir, CEO, Interior Health Authority



325 Wallace Street, P.O. Box 609 Hope, B.C. V0X 1L0
Phone: 604-869-5671 Facsimile: 604-869-2275
Website: www.hope.ca
Email: info@hope.ca

Office of the Mayor

October 31, 2025

Honourable Brenda Bailey
Minister of Finance
PO Box 9048 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Bailey:

Re: Request to Postpone Upcoming Changes to BC Assessment Transmission Pipeline Valuation

On behalf of the District of Hope Council, I am writing to express our concern regarding the proposed changes to the valuation of "Gathering and Transmission Pipelines" for the 2026 Assessment Roll. The District of Hope respectfully requests that BC Assessment postpone these changes until a comprehensive review of all industries within the Utilities Tax Class is completed.

The District of Hope was notified in September 2025 of a projected 28% reduction in the assessed value of pipeline properties for 2026 - from \$56,557,415 in 2025 to \$40,620,045 in 2026. This change will result in an estimated \$640,000 reduction in property tax revenue for the District, with only three and a half months to address this shortfall. To recapture the lost revenue, residential and other property classes may face a property tax increase of approximately 5.9%. The District of Hope already taxes Class 2 Utilities at the maximum rate allowed.

Similar reductions are occurring across the province, with communities such as the District of Kent (-26%), District of Houston (-25%), City of Kamloops (-21%), and Thompson-Nicola Regional District (-25%) all facing substantial impacts. The District of Hope, like many small communities, does not have a diverse tax base, making such shifts especially challenging.

Consultation with impacted local governments has been limited, and the District received notice of these changes with little time for financial planning. BC Assessment has indicated further valuation adjustments may be forthcoming for other utility classes but expects less significant impacts in future years.

We understand BC Assessment plans to review other large-scale utilities, such as railways, which could result in further changes to the utilities tax class and may help offset the negative tax impacts to residential ratepayers in the District. Given this broader review is imminent, we believe changes to Gathering and Transmission Pipeline valuations should be implemented at the same time as other utility classes. Maintaining the current

pipeline valuation until other valuation changes are implemented would allow for a fairer, coordinated approach and help prevent disproportionate impacts on Hope's taxpayers.

We ask that the Ministry take immediate action to postpone these changes until the valuation review of other large-scale utilities is completed, initiate a transparent review and consultation process, and provide mitigation and transitional measures to support local governments facing substantial and abrupt revenue losses. We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter and look forward to further dialogue to ensure fair and equitable assessment practices for all communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Victor Smith', written over a horizontal line.

Victor Smith
Mayor

cc: District of Hope Council
Honourable David Eby, Premier of British Columbia
Tony Luck, MLA Fraser-Nicola
Christopher Whyte, BC Assessment
Fraser Valley Regional District
City of Abbotsford
City of Chilliwack
Village of Harrison Hot Springs
District of Kent
City of Mission

November 4, 2025



District of Clearwater
Box 157, 209 Dutch Lake Road
Clearwater, BC V0E 1N0

Honorable Brenda Bailey
Minister of Finance
PO Box 9048 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2
Via Email: FIN.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Bailey:

Re: Immediate Action Required – 2026 Assessment Roll Transmission Line Valuations

The District of Clearwater is writing to register its strong objection and deep dissatisfaction with BC Assessment's recent decision to significantly alter the valuation of transmission lines for the 2026 Assessment Roll, as communicated to the District in September 2025.

According to the information provided, the assessed values for transmission line properties within the District will decrease by 30%—a reduction of \$6,363,949, from \$21,385,598 to \$15,021,649. This reassessment results in a redistribution of approximately \$255,000 in property taxation, shifting the burden away from pipeline corporations (Class 2 Utilities) and directly onto residential and small business taxpayers in our community. This represents an unjustifiable and inequitable 8% tax increase for local taxpayers.

The District of Clearwater already taxes Class 2 Utilities at the maximum rate permitted under provincial legislation. Consequently, the District has no legislative means to mitigate this abrupt and disproportionate shift in taxation impacts through rate adjustments. This situation is unacceptable and undermines local fiscal stability.

While BC Assessment has reportedly been reviewing the valuation methodology for transmission lines since 2016, a process spanning nearly a decade, the District received only three months' notice of the outcome. This failure to provide adequate notice and consultation represents a serious breakdown in communication and due process. Furthermore, no transitional supports or compensatory measures have been offered to assist affected communities in absorbing these unexpected fiscal impacts.

The District understands that BC Assessment intends to extend the utility class valuation initiative to other major sectors, including railways and telecommunications. While it has been suggested that future assessments may offset the impacts of the transmission revaluation, such uncertainty cannot justify proceeding with a methodology that disproportionately harms smaller communities. Implementing these changes without assessing their cumulative impact is fiscally irresponsible and contrary to the principles of equity and fairness.

DISTRICT OF CLEARWATER

P 250.674.2257
F 250.674.2173
E admin@docbc.ca

PO Box No. 157
209 Dutch Lake Road
Clearwater BC V0E 1N0

districtofclearwater.ca





The District of Clearwater asserts that the core principles of British Columbia's assessment and taxation system—transparency, fairness, and equity—have been compromised by this process. Reducing the tax contribution of large utility corporations while increasing the financial burden on residents and small businesses violates the spirit and intent of a balanced and just property tax framework.

Accordingly, the District of Clearwater requests that the Province of British Columbia immediately suspend the implementation of the 2026 transmission line valuation changes. These changes must not proceed until their full fiscal and policy implications for small and rural communities have been properly assessed and addressed.

Should the Province choose not to suspend implementation, the District insists that the following actions be taken without delay:

1. Reconsider and extend the implementation timeline for the new transmission line valuations to provide affected communities adequate time to plan and adjust;
2. Introduce transitional or compensatory measures to offset the immediate fiscal impacts, including the removal or adjustment of the legislated cap on Class 2 tax rates; and
3. Undertake direct and formal consultation with all impacted local governments to ensure that future reassessment processes are transparent, accountable, and equitable.

The District of Clearwater fully supports the principle of accurate and equitable property assessments. However, accuracy must not come at the expense of fairness, nor should it impose unsustainable financial burdens on smaller communities that rely on stable and predictable assessment bases to fund essential services.

The District expects an immediate and substantive response from the Province outlining the actions that will be taken to address these concerns and to prevent further inequitable tax shifts.

Sincerely,

Mayor Merlin Blackwell

Cc: District of Clearwater Council
Honourable David Eby, Premier of British Columbia
Ward Stamer, MLA Kamloops-North Thompson
Peter Milobar, MLA Kamloops Centre
Christopher Whyte, BC Assessment
City of Kamloops
District of Hope
District of Barriere
City of Merrit
Thompson-Nicola Regional District
TNRD Area "A" Director Usoff Tsao

DISTRICT OF CLEARWATER

P 250.674.2257
F 250.674.2173
E admin@docbc.ca

PO Box No. 157
209 Dutch Lake Road
Clearwater BC V0E 1N0

districtofclearwater.ca





THOMPSON-NICOLA
REGIONAL DISTRICT
The Region of BC's Best

300-465 Victoria Street
Kamloops, BC V2C 2A9
Tel: 250-377-8673
Toll Free in BC: 1-877-377-8673
Email: admin@tnrd.ca

Department: Finance

October 23, 2025

Honourable Brenda Bailey
Minister of Finance
PO Box 9048 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, B.C., V8W 9E2

Sent by email: FIN.Minister@gov.bc.ca

RE: Request to Postpone Upcoming Changes to BC Assessment Transmission Pipeline Valuation

Dear Minister Bailey,

On behalf of the Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD) Board of Directors, we are writing to express concern with the proposed upcoming changes to the valuation of "Gathering and Transmission Pipelines" for the 2026 Assessment Roll. The TNRD Board urges BC Assessment to postpone the changes to valuation of Gathering and Transmission Pipelines until such time that other industries within the Utilities Tax Class undergo a similar review.

The short notice to bring in this change for 2026 is expected to put a significant burden on other Property Classes within the TNRD – particularly affecting residential properties, due to the proposed reduction of assessed value for Gathering and Transmission Pipelines within TNRD boundaries by amounts that range between 23% and 30%. This shift will have a particularly negative impact for residential property owners in Electoral Areas with smaller populations and tax bases, leading to potential increases in taxation to residential property owners by as much as approximately 25% before any other anticipated cost increases.

Consultation with impacted local governments has been severely lacking, as the TNRD was only made aware in mid-September of this upcoming valuation change by BC Assessment to Gathering and Transmission Pipelines. We understand it now that BC Assessment has been considering this review and potential valuation changes to transmission pipelines since approximately 2001, and that a review formally began years ago before being delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This upcoming change would have a substantial impact to overall budget and taxation projections for the TNRD for multiple years, specifically for the other classes of ratepayers as this shifts this tax burden to the business and residents.

Gathering and Transmission Pipelines are an enormous taxpayer within TNRD Electoral Areas and Municipalities – particularly due to the Trans Mountain pipeline – and this property class has risen in value tremendously in recent years due to completion of the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion. As a result, the reduction in assessed value for Gathering and Transmission Pipelines would shift approximately \$250,000 in taxation onto other property classes within the TNRD, primarily residential properties, as Electoral Areas do not typically have diverse tax bases.

For context, a shift of approximately \$250,000 in taxation would represent nearly 1% of the total tax requisition for the TNRD in 2025 (\$28.8 million), meaning that this upcoming change in valuation proposed by BC Assessment represents a significant shift in the tax burden for other TNRD ratepayers.

MUNICIPALITIES: Ashcroft | Barriere | Cache Creek | Chase | Clearwater | Clinton
Kamloops | Logan Lake | Lytton | Merritt | Sun Peaks

ELECTORAL AREAS: "A" "B" "E" "J" "L" "M" "N" "O" "P"

We understand that BC Assessment is planning to review valuation of other large-scale utilities, including Railways, which could lead to more potential increases in valuation for other property classes within the Utilities tax class, and potentially offset negative property tax impacts to residential ratepayers. Given the apparent imminent plan for BC Assessment to do this wider review, we feel that changes to Gathering and Transmission Pipelines should come into effect at the same time as other valuation changes, and that the status quo that BC Assessment has had in place since 1986 should remain in effect for at least one additional year.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Regards,

Barbara Roden
Chair, Thompson-Nicola Regional District

CC: City of Abbotsford City of Burnaby
 City of Chilliwack City of Langley
 City of Kamloops City of Merritt
 City of Vancouver Coldwater Indian Band
 District of Barriere District of Clearwater
 District of Hope Fraser Valley Regional District
 Regional District of Fraser-Fort George Shxw'ow'hamel First Nation
 Simpcw First Nation Tkèmlúps te Secwépemc
 Township of Langley Tsawassen First Nation
 Upper Nicola Band Village of Valemount
 Whispering Pines/ Clinton Indian Band

November 18, 2025

Good afternoon, Tammy

Here's another issue with the proposed site of the skateboard park, other than it being located on a floodplain. As you can see, the erosion of the silty sand creek bank caused by high water runoff in the spring is eating its way into the area of the proposed skateboard park. I think the park would tie in nicely with the sports complex area where the ground is solid. This location would certainly have my full support. Would you please pass this on to the council members for me?

Thanks,

Brian Thorsteinson

P.S. I have some new photos I will be dropping by to show.





From: District of 100 Mile
Subject: FW: E-mail from the Honourable Jodie Wickens, Minister of Children and Family Development

VIA E-MAIL
Ref: 302573

Your Worship Mayor Maureen Pinkney and Council
100 Mile House
E-mail: district@100milehouse.com

Dear Mayor Pinkney and Council:

As Minister of Children and Family Development, I am honoured to proclaim November as Adoption and Permanency Awareness Month. I invite you to celebrate the families who have welcomed children and youth as permanent members of their family, and I ask that you help promote awareness for children and youth who are still waiting for permanent homes.

Adoption and Permanency Awareness Month is about celebrating the devoted families created when people open their hearts and commit to sharing their lives with a vulnerable child or youth. A permanent family environment provides a solid foundation for lifelong connections to community and culture, opportunities to thrive, and all the support these young people need along the way.

Permanency is transformational for everyone involved. The emotional and social impacts of belonging can last a lifetime. That is why Adoption and Permanency Awareness Month is also about recognizing the children and youth who are still waiting for permanent, stable, and nurturing homes.

I encourage you to share the following resources with your community members who are interested in becoming an adoptive or permanent family in British Columbia:

- [Adopt BC Kids](#) - an online portal that provides British Columbians wishing to adopt children and youth from foster care with information and guidance through their adoption application.
- The [Ways to adopt in British Columbia Website](#) provides information on adoption in British Columbia, such as infant adoption, relative and step-parent adoption, and adopting a child or youth from another country.
- <https://belongingnetwork.com> (formerly Adoptive Families Association of BC) - provides information and support services for families who wish to adopt now or in the future.
- <https://adoption-bc.com> - a detailed and comprehensive guide to additional adoption resources.

Please join us in marking November as Adoption and Permanency Awareness Month to recognize all the individuals who have grown their family and their hearts through adoption, and to all those who may do so in the future. On behalf of the Government of British Columbia, thank you for your continued leadership in supporting adoptive families in your community.

Sincerely,

Jodie Wickens
Minister

Sent on behalf of the Minister by:



This communication and any accompanying document is confidential and is intended solely for the addressed recipient(s). If you received this e-mail message in error, please delete the e-mail and any attachments and contact the Client Relations Branch, Ministry of Children and Family Development at: MCF.Info@gov.bc.ca.

From: NotificationsBC <NotificationsBC@canadawestland.com>
Sent: November 18, 2025 1:35 PM
To: District of 100 Mile
Subject: Westcoast Energy GP Inc. - SEP-CS6A-CS6B – Permanent Access Road Notification_100_Mile
Attachments: CS6A-CS6B-Perm_Access-RHE-Notification-Letter.pdf

Good afternoon,

On behalf of our client, Westcoast Energy GP Inc., please see the attached notification letter, including the attachments, regarding the Sunrise Expansion Program for your review.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Westcoast as outlined in the Factsheet or respond to this email.

Thank you,

403.250.7240

5774 10 Street NE, Calgary, AB, T2E 8W7

NotificationsBC@canadawestland.com

www.canadawestland.com

CANADA | *We build relationships to meet our clients' needs, through innovation and efficiency.*
WEST LAND

NOTICE: This email including attachments is confidential and legally privileged. If you are not the intended recipient, any redistribution or copying of this message is prohibited. If you have received this email in error, please notify us immediately by return email and delete this email.



Westcoast Energy Limited Partnership
200, 425 – 1st Street SW
Calgary, Alberta T2P 3L8
Canada

November 18, 2025

Via Email

Dear Recipient,

**Re: Westcoast Energy GP Inc. (Westcoast)
Sunrise Expansion Program – CS-6A to CS-6B – Notice of Application for Permanent Access Road**

Westcoast is providing notice of its intent to submit an application to the British Columbia Energy Regulator (BCER) for authorization to use and access provincial Crown land. The application will support the proposed Sunrise Expansion Program (Project), which is currently under review by the Commission of the Canada Energy Regulator (CER).

This application will seek authorization for a permanent access road required for the construction and operation of the CS-6A to CS-6B pipeline loop. The proposed 6 kilometers of new 42-inch pipeline and associated riser site will loop existing infrastructure and form part of the broader expansion of the southern segment of the Westcoast or BC Pipeline system, commonly referred to as T-South.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

The proposed access is located south of 100 Mile House. The exact location is illustrated on the attached map.

The width of the permanent access road will vary based on site-specific conditions and engineering requirements and will require approximately 0.02 hectares of new cut.

The route crosses Crown land within the Cariboo Regional District in central British Columbia. It has been designed to make use of existing pipeline infrastructure where feasible and to minimize environmental impact and land disturbance while supporting the objectives of the Project.

PROPOSED RELATED ACTIVITIES

Activities for the Project will involve site preparation measures intended to support future construction. These activities may include vegetation clearing, development or improvement of access roads, installation of signage, and preparation of laydown and staging areas. All activities will be carried out in accordance with applicable regulatory requirements and with respect for culturally significant areas, traditional land use, and environmental sensitivities identified through engagement with Indigenous communities and other rights holders.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND NOISE ISSUES

During construction, there may be a temporary increase in dust, noise, and traffic in the immediate area. These impacts are expected to result from the movement and operation of construction-related vehicles and equipment, including but not limited to logging equipment, semi-trailers, and other heavy machinery, as well as passenger vehicles transporting workers to and from the site. Standard practices will be used to manage dust and keep public roads clean during all phases of the Project.

Westcoast does not anticipate any odors associated with the construction and/or operation of the proposed access road. There may be some local lighting used to illuminate work areas. Lighting for proposed activities will be used in a manner that is consistent with the BCER's Light Control Best Practices Guideline.

All construction activities will be conducted in accordance with the Project Environmental Protection Plans and applicable standards, policies, and procedures. These measures are in place to mitigate potential environmental effects and to ensure the health and safety of workers, the public, and surrounding communities.

TIMELINE OF ACTIVITIES

The hearing process for the Project concluded on October 24, 2025, and the Commission of the CER will soon decide on its recommendation to the Governor in Council (GIC). As an application under section 183 of the *Canada Energy Regulator Act*, the Project requires approval from the GIC before construction can proceed. Should the GIC approve the Project, it will direct the CER to issue a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity.

Subject to receiving all required federal and provincial approvals, Westcoast plans to start construction as early as the second quarter of 2026.

MAP

Please refer to the attached maps for the location of the proposed pipeline and access road in relation to nearby residences, public facilities, and urban centers.

RESPONSE AND CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions or concerns about the information provided or the application itself, you may submit them in writing within 15 days of receiving this letter. Please direct written responses to:

Westcoast Energy GP Inc.

c/o Enbridge Inc.

200, 425 – 1st Street SW

Calgary, Alberta T2P 3L8

Attention: Zeke Reimers

Phone: 403-478-9861

Email: Zeke.Reimers@enbridge.com

In addition, you may make a submission to the BCER pursuant to section 22(5) of the *Energy Resource Activities Act* using the Written Submission Form available on the BCER's website. Completed submissions may be sent by email or mailed directly to one of the following BCER offices:

BC Energy Regulator

6534 – 100th Ave.

Fort St John, BC

V1J 8C5

Email: WrittenSubmissions@bc-er.ca

BC Energy Regulator

#3, 1445 – 102nd Ave.

Dawson Creek, BC

V1G 2E1

Attached you will find additional supporting documents that provide further information on the Project, including actions Westcoast is taking to ensure responsible Project execution and protection of people and the environment. Also included in the attached material is a postcard with a link to a short informational video explaining the next steps in the regulatory review process for the Project. For ease of reference, all this information can be found on our website: www.enbridge.com/sunrise.

Yours Sincerely,

Zeke Reimers
Lands Coordinator

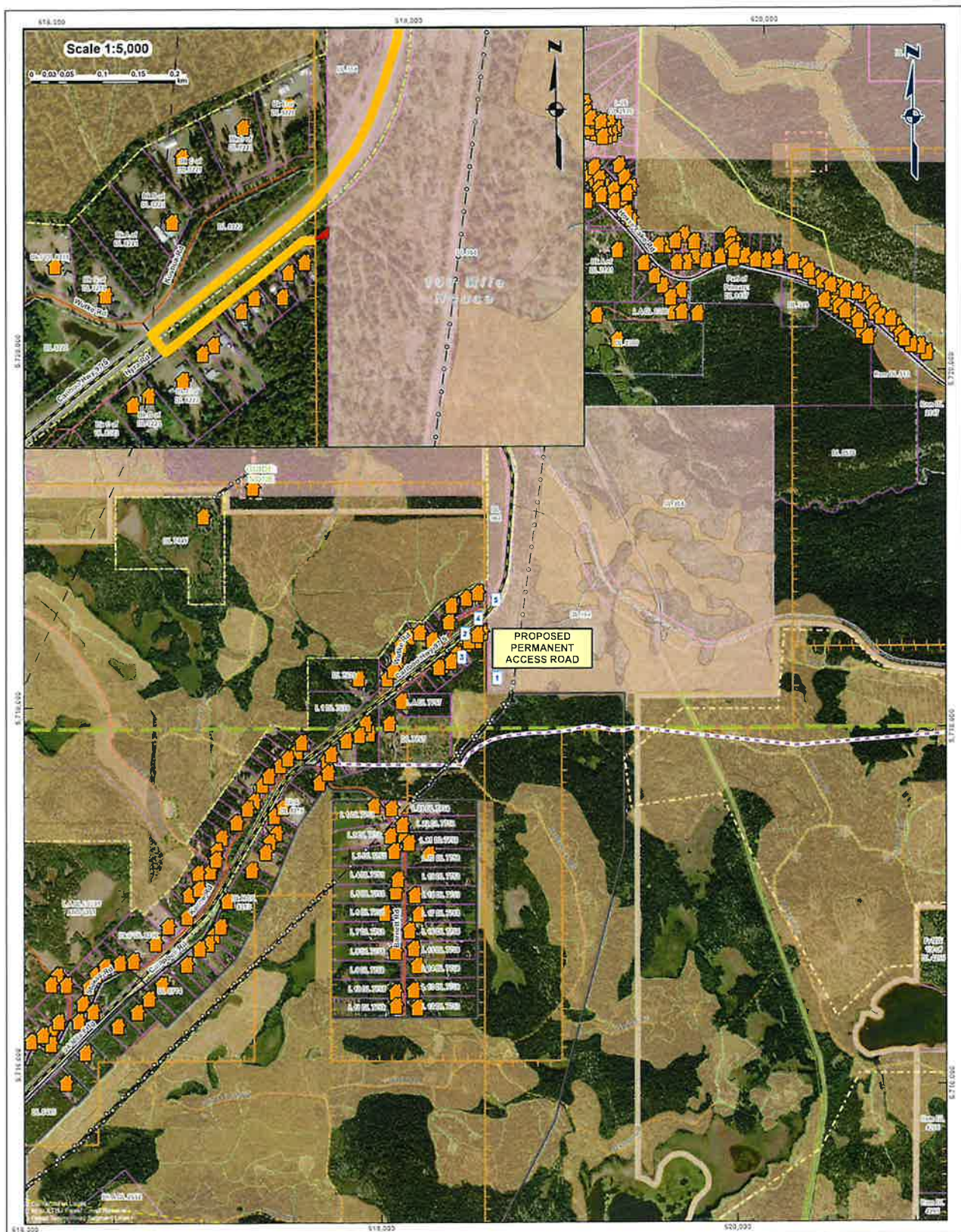
Attachments:

Rights Holder Engagement Map

Sunrise Expansion Program factsheet

Postcard containing a QR code, video and website links, and other additional resources

***In case of any emergency please contact Enbridge's 24-hour emergency number
1-800-663-9931.***



PROJECT FEATURES			
Oil and Gas			
	Proposed Features		
	Ground Disturbance/Loops		
	Pipeline		
TRANSPORTATION			
	Highway		
	Paved Road		
	Highgrade Gravel		
	Lowgrade Gravel		
	Cutline/Trail		
	Forestry Road		
	Rec Trail		
	Railway		
MISCELLANEOUS			
	Mineral / Coal Tenure		
	Mineral Reserve		
	Recreation Protected		
	Grazing Tenure		
	Trapper		
	Guide		
	Civic Address		
	Trapper Cabin		
MUNICIPAL			
	Municipality		
	Large Municipality		
	First Nations Reserve		
	Parcel		
CROWN TENURES			
	Watershed Reserve		
	Waterpower		
	Windpower		
	Agriculture		
	Env, Culture, & Rec.		
	Industrial		
	Communication		
	Utility		
	Transportation		
	Electric Power Line		
	Quarrying		
ENVIRONMENTAL			
	Wildlife Wildlife Management Area		
	Provincial Park		
	Other Protected Area		
FORESTRY			
	Cutline/Clearing		
	Forest Cover Reserve		
	Community Forests		
	Woodlots		

WESTCOAST ENERGY

RIGHTS HOLDER ENGAGEMENT MAP

FOR: PROPOSED PERMANENT ACCESS ROAD
FOR CS6A-CS6B (SUNRISE EXPANSION PROGRAM)

Scale 1:20,000

Universal Transverse Mercator (Zone 10)
North American Datum (1983)

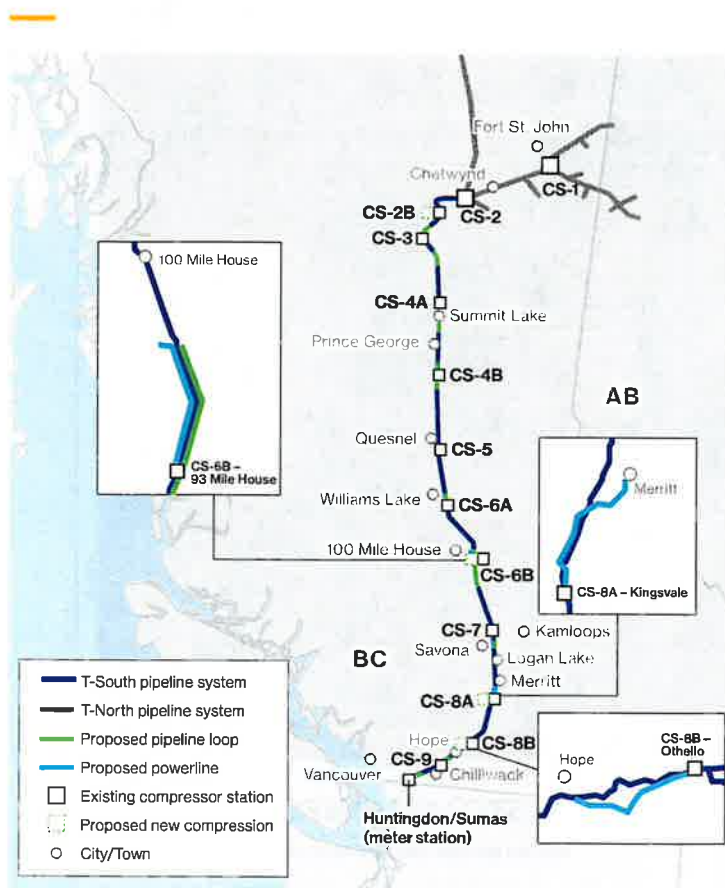
Client File: >	Job # 23-01082-001	Drawn By: ZH	Revision
APP No: >	B.C.G.S. 008064	Checked By: TB	
Ref. No: 23-01082-001-SK12-80		Date: Oct 27, 2025	
File Name: 23-01082-001-RH101-R1.mxd		Date: Oct 27, 2025	Sheet 1 of 2



Sunrise Expansion Program

> Image above: existing compressor station 5 – "Australian" – near Quesnel, BC

Westcoast Energy Inc. (Westcoast), an Enbridge company, owns and operates a natural gas transmission system in British Columbia (BC) that transports processed natural gas for markets throughout BC, Alberta and the Pacific Northwest. This gas is ultimately used to heat homes, businesses, hospitals and schools. It is also used as a fuel for electric power generation and is a staple in a number of industrial and manufacturing processes that produce hundreds of products that improve our lives.



Map is for illustrative purposes only and not to scale. Project design is under development and configuration of pipeline loops, compressor units, additional compressor station modifications, and powerlines are subject to change.

Project overview

Westcoast is proposing the Sunrise Expansion Program (Project), an expansion of the southern portion of its BC Pipeline system known as T-South. The Project is being proposed based on demand for additional natural gas transportation capacity. It will provide up to 300 million cubic feet per day (MMcf/d) of natural gas on the T-South system. The targeted in-service date is late 2028.

The proposed Project currently includes the installation of pipeline loops and additional compression at select existing compressor station sites. Westcoast is planning to use electric-driven compressor units, which would require new powerline infrastructure.

Pipeline loops

In order to increase transportation capacity, pipeline loops will be added along Westcoast's existing right-of-way (ROW). The additional loop segments will run parallel and connect to the existing pipeline system.

A total of approximately 137 km of 42-inch pipeline looping in various segments along the system is currently anticipated.

Preliminary Project timelines

- Environmental studies began: Q2 2023
- Geotechnical studies began: Q4 2023
- Regulatory application submission (CER): Q2 2024
- Construction: Q2 2026 – Q4 2028
- In-service: Q4 2028

Project timelines are subject to change.

Compressors and infrastructure upgrades

In addition to pipeline looping, additional compression and upgrades will be required. Over extended distances, friction and elevation differences reduce the pressure within the pipelines and slow the flow of gas – compressor stations give the gas a needed “boost”, helping it get from one point to the next.

Westcoast plans to install new compressors at existing compressor stations located at Azousetta Lake (CS-2B), 93 Mile (CS-6B), Kingsvale (CS-8A), and Othello (CS-8B).

To reduce environmental impacts, Westcoast is proposing the use of electric-driven compressor units for some of the compression required for the Project. If electric-driven compressor units are used, the Project will prevent about 360,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) emissions per year. That is equivalent to removing 100,000 cars off the road in a year. The electric-driven compressor unit would substantially cut greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that would be produced with a natural gas drive. Electric drives are also known for their quieter operation compared to natural gas drives.

To power the new electric-driven compressor units and ensure reliable operations, up to approximately 34 km of new electric transmission powerlines may be required. These overhead powerlines will largely follow existing linear infrastructure such as roads or ROWs to minimize environmental and local community impacts.

Regulatory

Westcoast filed an application for the Project with the Canada Energy Regulator in Q2 2024. Environmental, geotechnical and socio-economic studies were conducted to support the application. We are engaging with Indigenous groups, landowners, and other stakeholders to ensure they are updated with the regulatory processes.

Indigenous and community engagement

Since 2023, Westcoast has been engaging with potentially affected Indigenous groups, landowners, and other stakeholders. By gaining a deep understanding of their interests and how they may be affected by the Project at an early stage, we have incorporated local knowledge and feedback into the Project planning.

Westcoast is dedicated to creating economic opportunities for Indigenous groups and local communities. This ranges from training and employment opportunities to procuring goods and services from Indigenous businesses through a proactive supply chain process. These opportunities are provided from the early investigative studies through construction and into long-term operations.



Investigative field studies

To support Project routing and design, Westcoast is conducting investigative geotechnical and environmental studies. In 2023, we spent a total of 75,000 hours performing environmental and cultural surveys, with over half of the fieldwork hours completed by Indigenous partners. These studies will help identify any environmental or geotechnical factors that should be considered in designing the Project and in developing mitigation.

Environmental studies include surveys of fish and fish habitats, wildlife, vegetation, soil, watercourses, wetlands, air quality and archaeology assessments. Geotechnical studies aim to understand geological conditions beneath the surface for optimal pipeline routing design.

Environmental performance commitment

Enbridge's environmental, social and governance (ESG) goals represent the next stage of our evolution as an ESG leader to ensure we're positioned to grow sustainably for decades to come. Specifically on the environment, our goal is to achieve net-zero GHG emissions from our business by 2050 and a 35% reduction in the intensity of GHG emissions from our operations by 2030. Our emissions reduction targets include future projects we might develop, and anything we do will be assessed against our emissions reduction commitments. The installation of electric-driven compressors in this Project help Enbridge meet these goals.

To find out more about how we plan to meet these goals, please visit enbridge.com/esggoals.



Contact us

Virtual Open House
sunrise-program.com



Email
BCprojects@enbridge.com

Phone
1-833-267-2220 (toll-free)

Mail
Enbridge Inc.
3985 22 Ave
Prince George, BC V2N 1B7

Sunrise Expansion Program

Westcoast Energy Inc. (Westcoast), an Enbridge company, filed its application for the expansion of the southern portion of the Westcoast or BC Pipeline system. Known as the Sunrise Expansion Program (Project), this Project is needed to meet market demand for natural gas. This natural gas is used to heat homes, hospitals, businesses, and schools. It is also used as a fuel for electric power generation and is a staple in many industrial and manufacturing processes that produce hundreds of products that improve our lives.

For more information, please visit enbridge.com/sunrise or scan the QR code.

The Project website also has:

- A copy of the Project application
- A short video explaining the next steps following the application filing
- The link of the virtual open house: sunrise-program.com

For any questions, please contact us:

BCprojects@enbridge.com

1-833-267-2220 (toll free)

Enbridge Inc., 3985 22 Ave, Prince George, BC V2N 1B7



[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▲](#)**BCRHN****British Columbia
Rural Health Network**

English

العربية

Afrikaans

беларуская мова

български

català

A Letter from our President

Dear Readers,

As November settles in, the cooler days and darker evenings remind us that winter is just around the corner. Across our rural communities, preparations are underway getting ready for the season.

Last week also marked Patient Safety Week in Canada, a time to recognize the importance of safe, coordinated, and informed care for everyone, everywhere. It's a meaningful reminder that every patient interaction is an opportunity to improve safety, communication, and outcomes.

Rural and remote health care continues to be deeply impacted by distance, limited transportation options, fewer providers, and fewer services. These challenges often mean that individuals must travel far from home to access needed care, creating gaps when up-to-date information is lost during transitions. Having access to one's own personal health record can help bridge these gaps, allowing time to be spent on discussing appropriate, timely care rather than hoping for the best.

This message was part of the presentation I delivered at [the Joint Collaboration Committee](#) in Vancouver, where I was pleased to speak on rural issues and present a personal story of how not having information can impact the delivery of timely health care. I was proud to present as a part of the Personal Health Record Team, alongside other team members Anthon Meyer, Dr. Bill Clifford, Brigette Mettler, Alyssa Jones, and Claire Snyman.

Our team presentation was well received and underlined the need for a personal health record.

I was on Facebook recently (yes, I do go on Facebook) and saw a post that made me laugh but also hit home. It said, "Now that I'm retired, I can go out more... unfortunately, I didn't think it would be to more doctor's appointments."

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▲](#)

for meaningful, coordinated care.

Unfortunately, ER closures continue to occur far too often across BC. A major concern is that they have become so frequent that they no longer get the attention they deserve. It's vital that we continue to shine a light on these issues so that temporary closures don't quietly become an accepted norm. Rural residents deserve consistent, dependable emergency care close to home.

English

العربية

Afrikaans

беларуская мова

български

català

We have spoken before about the importance of the [Real Time \(RTVS\)](#) to rural and remote communities as a true lifeline for health care practitioners. We were made aware that RTVS programs [CHARLiE & MaBAL](#) are not currently available as usual due to the need for renegotiation. Mabel provides support for maternal health, while CHARLiE supports pediatrics and children, two of our most vulnerable populations. We have been told that the negotiations are going well and that some CHARLiE & MaBAL services are available. We remain hopeful that these vital supports will be reinstated as a 24/7 service very soon. They are so important to rural and remote communities, not only in providing assistance to the health care providers working in these areas, but also in helping with the recruitment and retention of physicians, allowing them to practice knowing they have immediate clinical support while sustaining rural care.

Here at the BC Rural Health Network, our work continues to focus on strengthening the rural voice in provincial health planning and policy. The Primary Health Care Review remains active provincially, and we are well represented with Paul Adams and Val St John continuing to be involved at that level. The Implementation Committee will reconvene in November to continue its discussions on the review.

Paul has also been busy presenting at several conferences on the impacts of rural living, including the recent [COSCO \(Council of Senior Citizens Organizations\)](#) conference. The Network was also well represented there, with our Vice President Bob Storey in attendance. Paul is a sought-after speaker on rural issues and always represents us so well.

The Fundraising Committee continues to meet to develop initiatives to ensure that the Network can continue to do our important work and represent rural and remote communities. More information will be shared as it becomes available.

As we move further into the fall, I want to, as always, thank all our members, partners, and supporters for their continued dedication to rural health in BC. Your voices, insights, and advocacy make a real difference in ensuring that rural communities receive the care they deserve. Together, we will continue to shine a light on the challenges we face, celebrate the successes we achieve, and work toward solutions that strengthen health care for all, no matter where they live.

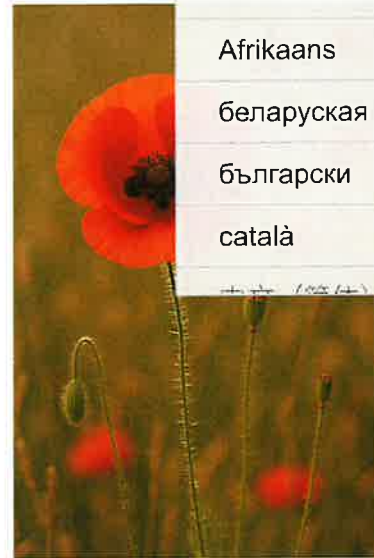
[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▲](#)

November 11 is a day to remember and honour all those who fought for our freedom and to those who continue to guard it. We remember with thanks.

Only my best,

Peggy

Peggy Skelton
President



English

العربية

Afrikaans

беларуская мова

български

català

[From the Desk of the Executive Director](#)

Dear Readers,

[The COSCO 75th Anniversary Conference](#) set a strong and inspiring tone for October, launching a month filled with travel, advocacy, and collaboration.

The Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations of BC has shown just how powerful dedicated advocacy can be when trusted voices work alongside government and community partners to achieve lasting, meaningful change.

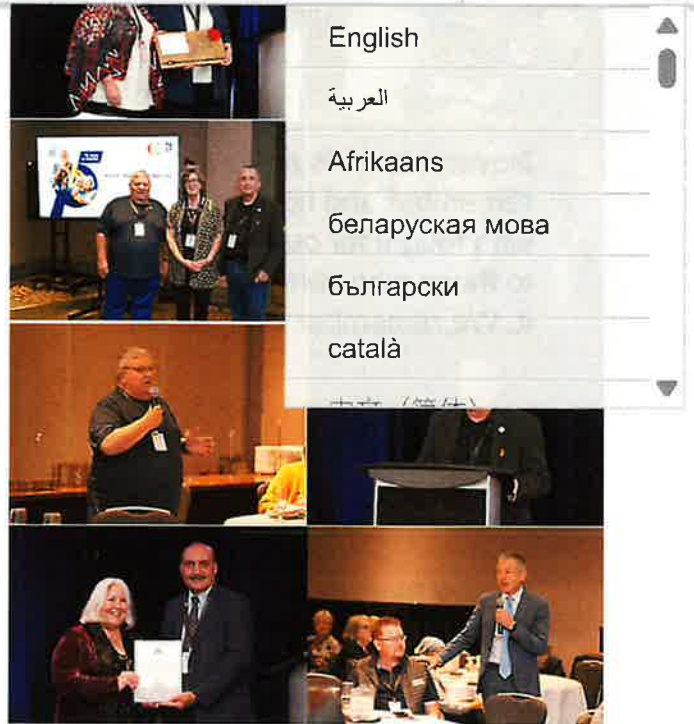
Any non-profit that can celebrate 75 years of impact and leadership deserves to be recognized, and many gathered in Richmond to do just that. We were honoured to join the event, connect with leaders from across the

Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▲

strengthening primary care, and advancing Community Health Centre development across rural and remote BC.



Spending time in person with members of my own team is a rare and valued experience, and I was delighted to spend two full days with Bob and Elaine Storey, along with many familiar faces from government, non-profit leaders, and friends from across BC. We also had the pleasure of meeting new partners and hearing fresh perspectives from those who share our commitment to improving health and wellbeing in rural communities. Our presence was well received, and several leaders acknowledged that our work not only raises awareness but adds a vital perspective that is too often overlooked. I was also honoured to be featured in COSCO's 75th Anniversary Video, which can be viewed [here](#).



Following the conference I was also delighted to be invited to [Carole Taylor's Journal](#) which airs weekly. The last time I saw Carole was over 20 years ago when she was Minister of Finance and I was in her first Budget Lockup back in 2005! Click on the image to watch the full episode.

This past month has centred on advancing rural primary care reform and ensuring that the voices of rural and remote communities are represented at every level of provincial planning. With the [Cooperation and Responsible Government Accord](#) (CARGA) between the BC NDP and Green Party now in place, we have had new opportunities to provide rural insights into the process both directly and through collaboration with key partners.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▲](#)

developing a model that reduces bureaucracy and strengthens co-based care. The goal is to ensure that health services are not only governed in ways that reflect the realities and capacities of rural communities. This work has brought together diverse perspectives and identified core principles, resulting in a report that was recently delivered to Minister Osborne. I want to thank everyone involved for their thoughtful contributions and the team's commitment to improving how team-based care functions across the province.

English

العربية

Afrikaans

беларуская мова

български

català

Alongside these reform efforts, I met with Dr. Femke Hoekstra from the University of British Columbia to discuss a new research partnership focused on rural virtual health. This partnership, currently in development for CIHR funding, aims to explore how virtual care can be designed to truly meet the needs of rural residents. If successful, BCRHN will serve as co-lead, guiding the knowledge mobilization and community engagement components. This collaboration brings together strong partners from RCCbc, UBC's Faculty of Medicine, and others, marking an exciting step forward for rural health research.

We were also pleased to learn that our CUES grant proposal, led by Dr. Jude Kornelsen, has advanced to the second round. While our larger Vancouver Foundation Investigate grant was not selected to proceed, we have a follow-up meeting scheduled with their PAR grant division to review feedback and strengthen future submissions. These experiences continue to refine our approach and reaffirm the value of the work we are doing together.

[Dr. Lui, President of Doctors of BC](#), was travelling in my region and thanks to an invitation from Dr. Stuart Johnson, I had the opportunity to meet with her and the ER team at South Okanagan General Hospital in Oliver. The meeting provided another valuable opportunity to continue our advocacy for stabilizing emergency services and to emphasize the importance of ensuring that every community, no matter how small or remote, can rely on timely access to care.

The month concluded with another trip to Vancouver, followed by several busy days in Victoria. In Vancouver, I had the pleasure of meeting with Dr. Ingledew, Interim Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer at [BC Cancer](#), and was joined by Jacqueline Podewils, Founder of [Housing is Healthcare](#). Together, we discussed the significant challenges faced by rural and remote oncology patients in accessing timely treatment and the shared need for better data to understand how and where rural patients are receiving care outside their home communities and ensuring reasonable access to care is provided. Dr. Ingledew was extremely supportive and demonstrated a deep understanding of the barriers rural residents face in both accessing care and the need for us to obtain the information we need. We look forward to continued collaboration with BC Cancer and Dr. Ingledew in the months ahead.

Over to Victoria and there we had a whirlwind of meetings and engagements

Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▲



orig English

Ja العربية

ab Afrikaans

arC беларуская мова

BC български

inc català

ML an

critic MLA Day and many rural MLAs including my own, MLA Wilson.

Following that meeting we headed across town to meet with Dan Levitt (Seniors Advocate) and the ED for the Office of the Senior's Advocate, Bruce Ronayne. These discussions concentrated on building Long-Term Care for rural communities, creating rural 'Health Hubs' and the challenges faced with transportation and housing for rural seniors seeking care outside of community. As always Dan and his team were keen to engage and hear from us.

From there we met up with Moses Mukasa with Donor Services for the [Vancouver Foundation](#). Moses has been very helpful in providing advice and support on what donors need to see before we move forward with fundraising efforts around 'Housing is Healthcare' and the need for government supports for medical accommodations and for patients leaving their communities to access essential care and services.

Valerie St John and the [BC Association of Community Health Centres](#) were also doing the rounds in the Legislature and we had the pleasure of having dinner with Val followed by a day of advocacy where we were often meeting the same representatives back to back and effectively reinforcing our shared messaging around primary care reform and providing mutual appreciation of the efforts being made by our respective organizations.

On Thursday morning we were introduced in the Legislature by the Conservative Party of BC, MLA Day; the BC Green Party, MLA Valeriot; and the BC Government, Minister Anderson. Our non-partisan work and the awareness that we continue to engage and work with all parties is critical in creating meaningful non-partisan solutions for the future. You can hear our introductions and watch the events of the day in the BC Legislature [here](#).

I was also delighted to see many other familiar faces in the Legislature on Thursday including Nick Gaskin ([Pender Harbour Health Centre](#)), Pablita Thomas ([BC Hospice](#)

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▲](#)

schedule that Victoria trips typically create.

Our afternoon continued with a series of meetings with the Green caucus, staff and new leader Emily Lowen. Emily has accepted our guest speaker at our AGM on December 17th at 3pm PST. You will remember Furstenau joined us last year as she was departing her role as premier. It seems fitting to have new leader speak to our members as she begins leading the 3rd Party. Emily has brought many new members to the table and in doing so has also encouraged a new generation to engage in the political scene. Her leadership and impact have already been a game changer and I look forward to seeing how she shapes the future of our amazing province.

English

العربية

Afrikaans

беларуская мова

български

català

العربية (البحرين)

Our meeting with Minister Anderson and PS Toporowski followed and our discussions provided a revived sense of optimism on the Housing is Health initiative. The meeting was centred on Housing is Healthcare and the desire to collaborate on solutions. Additional information will be provided to both Minister Anderson (to the Premier) and PS Toporowski (to the Minister of Health) over the next few weeks while the Legislature is in recess and will be followed up as soon as the session continues later this month. Our mutual desire is to find a path towards a long term solution that can be embraced by Government and achieve solutions for residents seeking accessible care. More to follow.

The grand finale of a whirl wind month was spent at [Luther Court CHC](#) and [Long-Term Care facility](#) in Victoria. Thanks to Val St. John, I was introduced to Chelsea Wozniak who is a director at BCACHC and the Director of the CHC at Luther Court. I also had the opportunity to meet Kevin Harter who leads the Long-Term Care facility. This combined facility that offers full primary care services with integrated mental health and social supports is from my perspective the solution to many of our health and wellness challenges. Not only is their facility a hub of community activity, independent housing, medical services, assisted living and long-term care; it is also a place where where you can feel the positive energy as you enter and the hear the pride and sense of purpose from all you encounter. Chelsea was a wonderful host and the Luther Court 'Campus of Care' is an example of excellence for all of BC!

Everywhere I go I am always happy to be reminded that good people are everywhere and so many are dedicated to selflessly caring for others. Thank you to all who work so hard everyday to make life better for others.

In a world filled with challenges and uncertainty, I also take time to reflect on those who stand to serve and protect us. To all who have sacrificed their lives so that we may live in freedom and enjoy this remarkable country, I offer my deepest gratitude. We remember you with honour and thanks. Lest we forget!

Yours in health and wellness,
Paul

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▲](#)

Executive Director
BC Rural Health Network

English ▲

العربية

Afrikaans

беларуская мова

български

català

中文 (繁体)

Community Connec

Hello everyone,

I hope this letter finds you in peace and comfort. I'm so happy we've arrived in November, which is my favorite time of year. There's something moving about watching the leaves turn these very beautiful colors welcoming in the change, also feeling the crisp air on morning walks, and savoring those last quiet strolls before the snow arrives.

This season always brings a shift, in pace, in energy, in routine. My hope is that whatever changes are unfolding in your life, they're happening at a rhythm you can embrace. May this month offer you moments of joy, reflection, and memories worth holding onto.

This month, we're proud to spotlight the Town of Golden as our Member of the Month. I had the privilege of speaking with Mayor Ron Oszust, Councilor Chris Hembrauch, and his wife, Mrs. Terri Hembrauch, and their voices left a lasting impression.



Mrs. Hembrauch's presence during the interview was especially moving. Her unwavering support for her husband and her heartfelt reflections on the town's journey offered a powerful reminder: behind every leader is a network of care, strength, and shared purpose. Her insight into Councilor Hembrauch's work was encouraging, a quiet testament to the kind of dedication that often goes unseen but never unfelt.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▲](#)

what stands out is how they respond: with creativity, collaboration and a sense of belonging. Change isn't always easy, but Golden shows us how to meet with grace and grit.

In times of transition, it's easy to feel uncertain. But communities like Golden show us that change can also be a call to come together, to reimagine, to build something even stronger. Their resilience is not just inspiring it's instructive.

Thank you, Golden, for showing us what it means to lead with heart and to celebrate you this month, and we look forward to learning from you again.

Kind regards

Dea

English

العربية

Afrikaans

беларуская мова

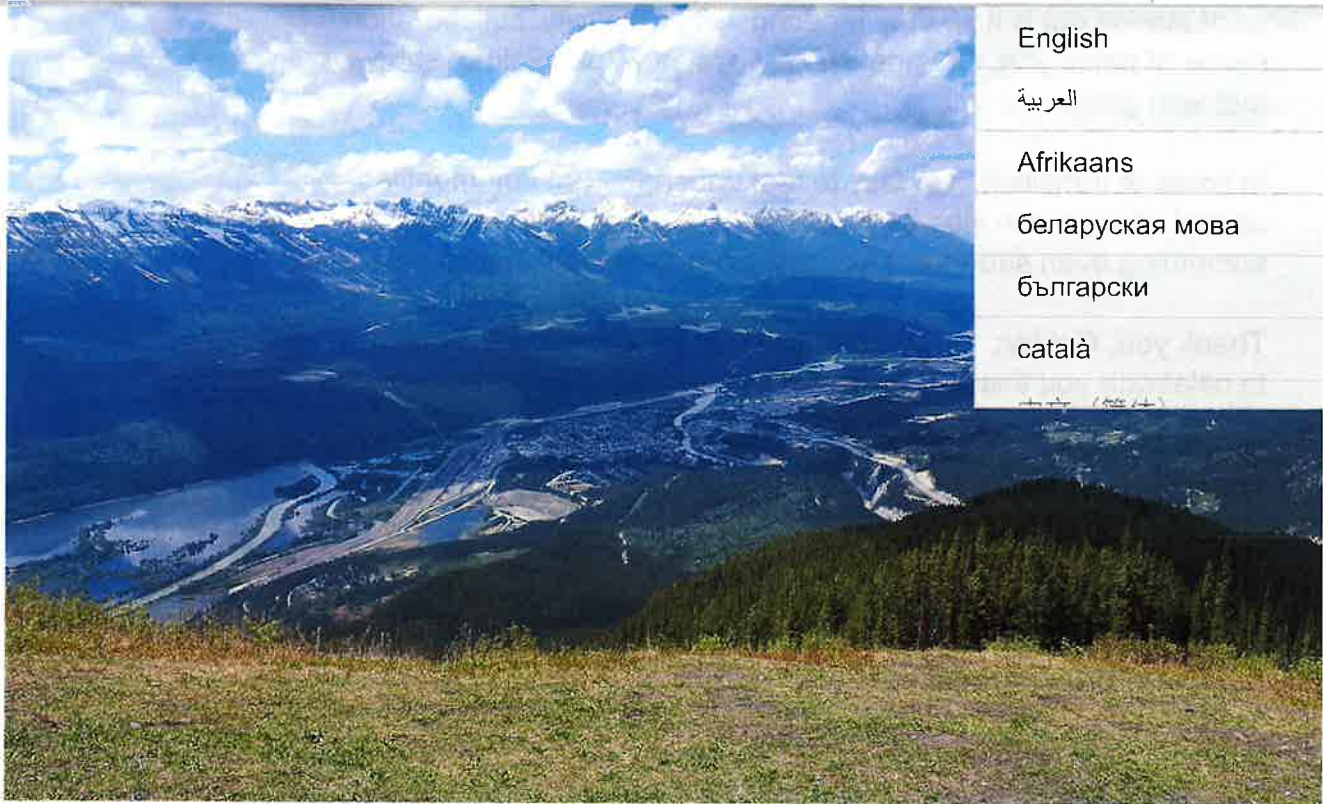
български

català

November Member of the Month:

Town of Golden

A Mountain Community Committed to Care

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▲](#)

Nestled between the Selkirk, Purcell, and Rocky Mountains, the Town of Golden is a vibrant community of around 7,000 residents, including the town proper and its surrounding rural area. Known for its spectacular landscapes, thriving tourism, and close-knit spirit, Golden represents both the beauty and the complexity of rural life in British Columbia.

Despite its postcard setting, Golden faces the same healthcare challenges shared by many small communities: long distances to care, limited local services, and the high cost of travel for patients needing specialized treatment. Yet through strong leadership, collaboration, and deep community spirit, Golden continues to find ways to bridge these gaps.

Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▲



Strong Leadership, Shared Values

Mayor Ron Oszust has served Golden for many years as a mayor, paramedic, and lifelong volunteer. His deep understanding of rural health challenges comes not only from governance but also from firsthand experience responding to medical emergencies as a BC Ambulance paramedic for over three decades.

“We’re fortunate,” Oszust says. “Golden has a full complement of 16 doctors, which is rare for a community our size. But we still face major challenges. Transportation remains the single biggest barrier to equitable healthcare. Our nearest CT or MRI is two and a half hours away in Cranbrook. That’s a six-hour round trip for a seven-minute scan, and sometimes patients are left stranded because the ambulance cannot bring them home.”

This reality underscores a larger issue across rural BC: the hidden costs of care. Patients often face out-of-pocket expenses for accommodation, fuel, and meals, and programs like the provincial Travel Assistance Program rarely meet the true need. “Healthcare should be based on a person’s need, not their postal code or ability to pay,” Oszust emphasizes.

Lived Experience and Local Advocacy

Few people embody rural advocacy like Councillor Chris Hambruch, a long-serving council member and president of the Golden Seniors Centre. Living with multiple

Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▲



English

العربية

Afrikaans

беларуская мова

български

català

“I’ve been on council since 1996,” Hambruch reflects. “Transportation has always been a challenge. People here sometimes travel to Kamloops, Trail, or Kelowna for dialysis or treatment, four to five hours each way. Some just give up and don’t go, and that costs lives.”

Hambruch’s commitment goes far beyond meetings. He surveys residents about services, helps seniors navigate programs, and even lends his wheelchair-accessible van to families in need of medical travel. “There’s no accessible taxi here,” his wife Terri adds. “When someone cannot get to the hospital, we help however we can.”



Their approach is simple but powerful: connection. Chris and Terri make sure no one in their community feels invisible. “Sometimes it’s as small as handing someone a pamphlet about a service they didn’t know existed,” he says. “That might change their life.”

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▲](#)

Building Community Connections

Golden's strength lies in its ability to work together. The municipal closely with Interior Health, BC Ambulance's Community Paramedics, and the Better at Home to promote healthy living and support seniors' independence. A standout initiative is the indoor seniors' walking program, held in a gymnasium each winter. The program keeps residents active during the winter by providing vital social interaction and on-site health checks from community paramedics.

English

العربية

Afrikaans

беларуская мова

български

català



These efforts demonstrate what local action can achieve even when resources are stretched thin. As Oszust puts it, "It takes everyone being open-minded and innovative. No one entity can do it all, but if everyone does a little, a lot can get done."

Infrastructure and the Road Ahead

Golden's new Community Care Centre, currently under construction and expected to open in early 2026, represents a major step forward. The facility will relocate several community health services from the aging hospital, easing congestion and improving patient flow. Yet as both the Mayor and Councillor note, infrastructure alone is not enough. Rural communities need sustainable staffing, long-term care capacity, and reliable connectivity.

Hambruch points out that even virtual care, often cited as a solution, faces barriers. "Some seniors don't trust it or don't know how to use technology," he says. "We're

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▲](#)

A Message for Decision Makers

Both leaders agree on one thing: equity in healthcare must mean taxation. "We all pay the same taxes, whether we live in downtown beautiful Golden," says Hambruch. Those taxes are in part to uphold responsibilities under the Canada Health Act and providing reasons for all residents. That access must be provided without financial burdens, this is a right for all residents. The cost-of-service delivered always be higher per capita than in urban populations but the responsibility Province is to ensure everyone can reach the services they need. "So equity should mean we all get the same access to services, one way or another."

Mayor Oszust echoes that sentiment. "Decision makers need a fuller understanding of what it's like to live hours from care. These are not numbers; they're lives. Rural residents deserve dignity, timely treatment, and the ability to age in place."

Golden's Spirit: Service Above Self



Golden's story is one of perseverance, compassion, and quiet determination. Both Oszust and Hambruch are Rotarians, guided by the principle of service above self. As Chris says, "I can't always give back physically, but I can make connections, and when I see someone doing better because of it, that's what makes me proud."

Golden's example reminds us that while the road to care may be long, the strength of rural communities lies in the people who refuse to stop driving forward, together.

[Visit the Town of Golden's Webpage Here](#)

Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▲

View

English

العربية

Afrikaans

беларуская мова

български

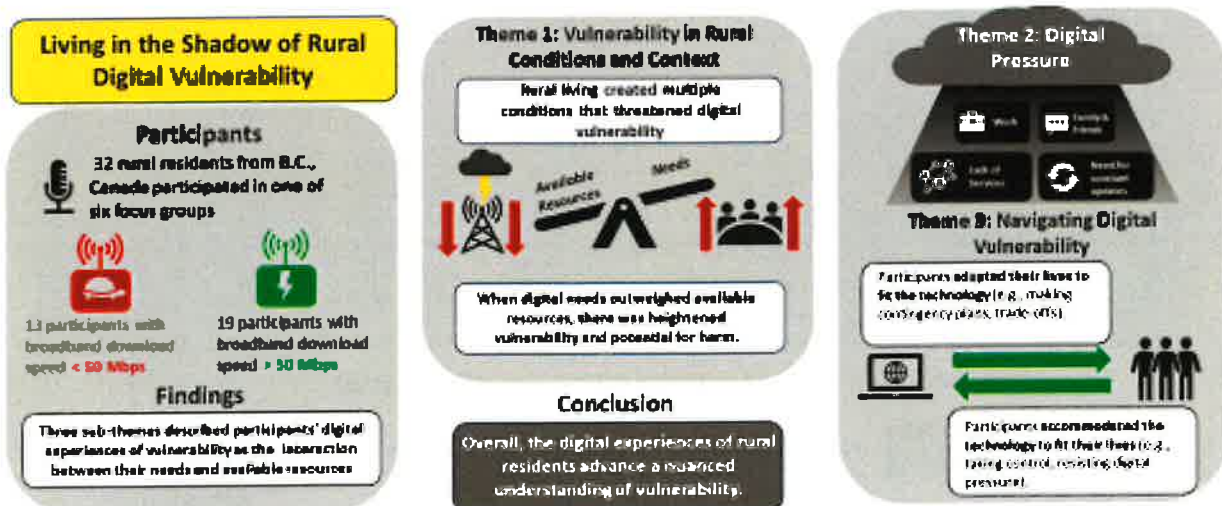
català

中文 (简体)

Digital vulnerability is common for many rural Canadians

Check out a new publication on access to high-speed broadband connectivity in rural British Columbia led by Dr Kathy Rush at UBCO and hear what rural patients had to say.

This work provides valuable insights into the experiences and challenges faced by rural residents with differing broadband speeds, and highlights the innovative approaches used to navigate digital vulnerability.



Explore the full article here: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jrurstud.2025.103812>

This work builds on a UBC survey study on digital connectivity in rural communities

that is also freely available here: <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0330347>

For more information about this study, please contact the Research Coordinator:

Cherisse.Seaton@ubc.ca

Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▲

**RESEARCH
OPPORTUNITY****HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF YOUTH SEXUAL HEALTH
SERVICES IN BC!**

UBC's **Sexual Health Evaluation Team** and **Options for Sexual Health** have partnered to identify sexual health service gaps and inform the design of strengthened youth sexual health services. Our priority focus on providers and youth living and working in smaller urban, rural and remote BC.

Options for Sexual Health currently operates 30 clinics across BC. As of early 2025, Options has bridge funding for the year from the BC Ministry of Health while it undergoes strategic planning to inform more sustainable sexual and reproductive health service delivery in BC.

This is a chance for rural and remote youth and providers in BC to share directly how they want to access/offer youth sexual health services in their community & shape the design of what strengthened, youth-centred, local sexual health services could look like!

We are currently interviewing:

- Youth ages 15–29 years old (all genders)
- Sexual health providers – including nurses, doctors, pharmacists, midwives, counsellors, sexual health educators, and support workers

Participants' stories, experiences accessing and providing care, and ideas for the future of these services in the province will be shared in a report with Options for Sexual Health, the Ministry of Health, program planners, and service providers to shape the design of youth sexual and reproductive health services in BC.

Interviews take ~1-hour, can be completed over Zoom, and are compensated with a \$50 honouraria to thank you for sharing your time and expertise.

Principal Investigators: Dr. Kate Shannon (UBC Professor, Social Medicine & Policy), Tiffany Melius (Executive Director, Options for Sexual Health), Nicole Pasquino (Clinical Practice Director, Options)

Contact the Project Lead, Rachel Bergen, if interested:

Email: rachel.bergen@ubc.ca

Website: bc-sexualhealthevaluation.ca



Invitation to Participate: HealthyData Journey Mapping Project - Generating Evidence to Support

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▲](#)

Canadian Health Systems



Networked Health

English

العربية

Afrikaans

беларуская мова

български

català

[Networked Health BC](#) is inviting people living in British Columbia to participate in a one-hour virtual interview to share their healthcare experiences. We want to understand how your health information was (or was not) shared with healthcare providers across different care settings.

This project aims to learn directly from individuals about their experiences accessing healthcare and how personal health information was collected, shared, or managed throughout their care journey. Patient and caregiver insights will contribute to a visual “Health Data Journey Map” that highlights both strengths and gaps in current practices, as well as a toolkit to help healthcare leaders, policymakers, and system designers better support patients and caregivers across British Columbia.

What Participation Involves

We are inviting you to take part in a one-on-one virtual interview (45–60 minutes), during which we will ask about:

- How and where you have accessed care (e.g., hospitals, clinics, labs, online portals)
- How your health information was shared between healthcare providers and settings
- Any challenges, barriers, or positive moments you experienced
- Whether cultural values and practices were reflected in how your health data was collected or used

You are welcome to have a family member, friend, or caregiver join you for the interview if that would make you more comfortable. You may also take a break at any time or end the conversation early for any reason.

Privacy, Consent, and Confidentiality

Participation is voluntary and completely confidential. With your consent, the interview will be recorded to ensure your feedback is captured accurately. All personal identifiers will be removed, and data will be securely stored and ultimately destroyed following the conclusion of the project. This work adheres to the BC Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

A full consent form will be shared with you prior to the interview and reviewed again at the beginning of our meeting. You may withdraw at any time, and we will honor your preferences regarding data retention or destruction. A summary of mental health resources will also be included, should discussing your experiences raise any concerns.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▲](#)

You will be offered the opportunity to:

- Review a transcript of your interview to ensure its accuracy
- Review and comment on themes developed from the interview
- Receive a digital copy of the final report once available, if you wish

We deeply value your time, voice, and lived experience. While there is no compensation for participating, your contribution will help improve how health information is shared, accessed, and respected, especially in rural, remote, and culturally diverse communities.

Thank you again for considering this invitation. Your story is vital to creating a more respectful, connected, and equitable healthcare system.

Please contact the Networked Health-BC Health Data Mapping Project Co-Chair - Glynda Rees RN MSN at Glynda_Rees@bcit.ca before **October 31, 2025** if you are interested in participating.

English

العربية

Afrikaans

беларуская мова

български

català

Հայերեն

[Subscribe](#)
[Past Issues](#)
[Translate ▲](#)

Are you living with chronic conditions? GAIN KNOWLEDGE+SKILLS+CONFIDENCE



YOUR CHOICE OF FREE PROGRAMS

In-Person
Virtual


One 2.5 hour group session per week for six weeks

Held at venues throughout BC or virtually via webcams

*Workbook provided

Options: Chronic Conditions, Chronic Pain, Diabetes and Cancer


Telephone


Health Coach Program: Achieve your health goals with help from a peer Health Coach; 1 session/week for 3 months

Frailty Coaching Program: Learn strategies to slow down and/or prevent the progression of frailty; 1 session/week for 3 months

*Workbook provided for both programs

Online


Web-based 6 week group program where participants log in on their own time to complete weekly activities and interact through discussion boards

*Workbook provided

Self Study


Tool Kit for Active Living package mailed to your home

Work through program content independently, at your own pace

Options: Chronic Conditions, Chronic Pain, Diabetes and Cancer

Contact Self-Management BC

604-940-1273 or Toll Free: 1-866-902-3767

selfmgmt@uvic.ca | selfmanagementbc.ca



Institute on Aging
& Lifelong Health

Self-Management
British Columbia

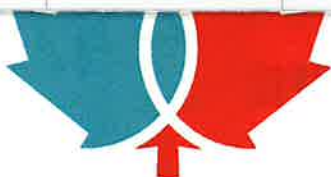


Self-Management BC is supported by the Province of British Columbia

Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▲



Transplantation Research

Programme de recherche
don et transplantation

English

العربية

Afrikaans

беларуская мова

български

català

Are you the parent or caregiver of a child or youth (0-19 yrs) who has undergone a liver, kidney, or multi-visceral transplant?

A research team led by Diana Mager PhD RD at the University of Alberta is conducting an **ONLINE SURVEY** to assess the impact of **household food insecurity** on dietary intake, mental health, and quality of life in children who have undergone organ transplantation.

If you would like to complete the survey, please scan the QR code or follow the link below to access the survey. The survey will take about **10-15 minutes** to complete. Minimum age to complete the survey is 12 years.



<[HTTPS://REDCAP.UALBERTA.CA/SURVEYS/?S=PKDX8DHEEMFJN9XK](https://redcap.ualberta.ca/surveys/?s=PKDX8DHEEMFJN9XK)>

If you have any questions about the survey or this study, please email Dr. Diana Mager at mager@ualberta.ca.



Version 1. Jan 23 2025Pro00144464.

CONQuERCeliac disease Outcomes in Nutrition,
Quality of Life, and Emerging Research.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▲](#)

[A Career in Saving Lives: BCEHS Youth Pathways Program Opens Doors for Paramedics](#)

English

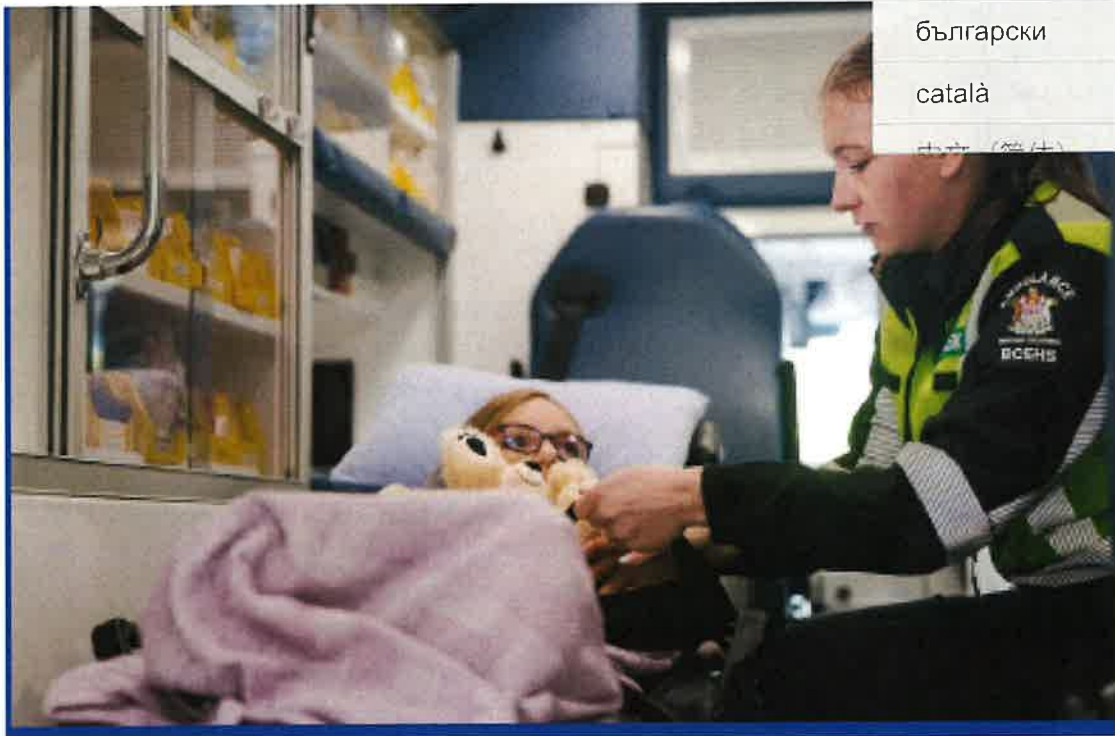
العربية

Afrikaans

беларуская мова

български

català



British Columbia's rural communities need more paramedics, and the BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) Youth Pathways Program is stepping up to inspire the next generation of emergency responders. If you've ever wondered what it's like to be on the frontlines of healthcare, responding to crises, and making a real difference in people's lives, this program is your chance to find out.

From interactive simulations to hands-on ride-along experiences, BCEHS is offering a structured pathway for students from Grade 9 to 12, and even young adults, to explore the world of paramedicine.

Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▲

An Opportunity for Rural Youth to Step

Action

BCEHS is actively reaching out to rural youth, encouraging them to consider a career in emergency health services. With a growing demand for paramedics across BC's remote and under-served areas, this program provides a unique opportunity for students to gain world experience and fast-track their careers in healthcare.

Here's how students can get involved:

- **Grade 9: A Day in the Life of a Paramedic** – Get a firsthand look at what it takes to be a paramedic through interactive simulations, first aid training, and Q&A sessions with professionals.
- **Grade 10: Paramedic Youth Camp** – A 2-day immersive camp where students develop teamwork, leadership, and life-saving skills that will enhance their resumes.
- **Grades 11 & 12: High School EMR Course** – A post-secondary Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) course delivered at the high school level, preparing students for entry-level roles in emergency medicine.
- **Youth Observer Program (Ages 17-18)** – Experience the adrenaline rush of emergency response through ride-along shifts, mentorship from paramedics, and hands-on medical training.

Why This Matters for Rural Communities

Many rural areas across BC face critical shortages of paramedics, leading to long wait times and increased pressure on emergency services. By encouraging young people to explore this career path early, BCEHS is helping to build a strong, local workforce that can serve their own communities.

For rural students who may not have considered a future in healthcare, this program provides an accessible and exciting introduction to emergency medicine, without having to leave their home communities to get started.



[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)

Translate ▲

How to Get Involved

If you, or someone you know, are interested in a future paramedic, now is the time to explore the BCEHS Youth Program. The program is school-sponsored and offers experiences that could set students on the path to a rewarding impactful career.

[Brochure BCEHS Youth Pathways Program](#)

Download

English

العربية

Afrikaans

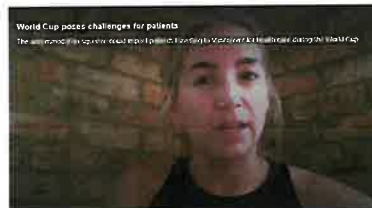
беларуская мова

български

català

For more information, visit [BCEHS Youth Pathways Program](#) or contact **Deborah Roberts at (250) 731-7197** or Deborah.roberts@bcehs.ca.

Take the first step toward a career that saves lives, because the future of emergency health services in BC starts with you. 🚑 ❤️



[Travel and Access to
Care in Rural and](#)

[Concern out-of-town
patients receiving](#)

[First CARGA Primary
Care Report Released](#)

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▲](#)[Health Network Postion](#)[won't find](#)[Paper](#)[accommodations during](#)[the World Cup](#)[Click here](#)[Click here](#)

English

العربية

Afrikaans

беларуская мова

български

català

中文 (繁体)

Oncology Travel and Supports

If you are an ocology patient or know someone in BC who is, Canadian Cancer Society and Hope Air offer amazing services and supports. Please visit their websites to learn more.

Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▲



Society

- No one should have to miss their cancer treatment because they can't find transportation or accommodation, but unfortunately that's a reality that exists in areas across the country today, particularly in rural communities.
- Thanks to this generous funding from the BC Government, we will be able to continue reducing the financial burden and improving outcomes for British Columbians going through life-saving cancer treatment, no matter where in the province they live.
- The investment has allowed CCS to expand the Cancer Travel and Accommodation Services program (CTAAS) to more communities across the province.
- Launched in 2023, this life-changing program has supported over 3,000 British Columbians through the end of 2024, allowing them to focus on their treatment and making travel costs one less thing to worry about.

CCS continues to support people with cancer through:

Financial assistance: Grants for travel expenses related to cancer care, including for those who need to travel or temporarily relocate for leukemia/bone marrow transplant

Accommodations: Free lodging and meals at no cost to the patients at one of our CCS lodges near treatment centres

Ground transportation: Through our Wheels of Hope program, we connect patients needing transportation to medical centres with volunteer drivers

We are also working in close partnership with Hope Air to continue removing barriers in accessing travel services by air, ensuring people can get the support they need to get to and from their medical appointments however and whenever they need.

- To learn more about the Canadian Cancer Society's transportation and lodge services, visit cancer.ca or contact the Cancer Information Helpline at 1-888-939-3333.

English

العربية

Afrikaans

беларуская мова

български

català

Travel Assistance with Kindness and Compassion!

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▲](#)

We look forward to connecting with you.



Copyright (C) 2025 BC Rural Health Network. All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails? You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)

[View In Browser](#)



BCRHN

British Columbia
Rural Health Network

Growing Together

GREAT PLACES

B.C. COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Bert Pulles Memorial Award Youth in Action Recipients:
 - Dunsmuir Neighbourhood Assoc.
 - My House Mission Youth House
 - Heritage Park Middle School
- Showcase: Qualicum Beach
- Provincial Program Registration Info
- National Theme and Message

GOLD SPONSORS:

URBAN
SYSTEMS

Teck

BRONZE SPONSOR

Specimen Trees Wholesale Nurseries

GREEN BUD SPONSOR

Equinox Environmental Products

NATIONAL CiB MAJOR SPONSOR

Scotts Canada

MEMBER OF

Gardens BC
BC Council of Garden Clubs



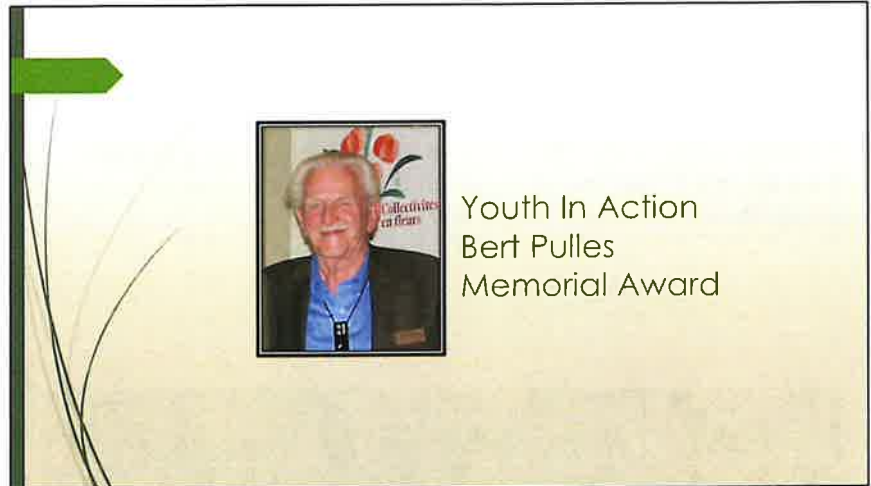
Mailing Address:
4451 212-Street, Langley, V3A 7Z8
(604) 576-6506

www.bccib.ca

[Facebook](#) [BC CiB](#) [Privacy Policy](#)

Coordinator Catherine Kennedy

Recognizing a Special Friend



The following is from the October 2nd BC Communities in Bloom 20th Anniversary & Awards Dinner event as presented by Kerry Bysouth:

"Many of you here tonight knew Bert the Mole Man. I am sorry to say he passed away last September 2024.

*With the help of family and friends the BC CiB Board created the **Youth In Action Bert Pulles Memorial Award**. This year we chose to limit the applicants to the Mission area.*

Bert's passion for the Communities in Bloom program, his community and family are only some of the reasons we wanted to honour our dear friend.

With the help of a silent donor, we are going to be awarding the three projects with \$150 each for their deserving projects featuring youth groups in the Mission area. In the coming weeks we will be meeting with these groups to distribute the cheques.

Thank you to Bill Elliott and Denyse Tavener (Mission CiB), and Darlene Kalawsky (BC CiB Chair) for initiating this wonderful tribute to our friend Bert Pulles."

Please see the next three pages of the winners of this donation in Bert's memory.

Dunsmuir Urban Garden on 9th

(Dunsmuir Neighbourhood Association) Mission, BC

<https://dunsmuirneighbour.wixsite.com/my-site-3>

This nomination highlights a bilingual (French-language) community gardening project co-led with the Grade 5–6 class from École des Deux-Rives. These students worked alongside our team to help build the raised garden beds at the Dunsmuir Urban Community Garden. Their weekly hands-on contributions throughout the school year made it possible for us to create a functional, shared food-growing space that serves the wider community. We're proud of what these young people have accomplished and are grateful for the opportunity to recognize their efforts through this award.



MYHouse
Charity Youth House
Mission, BC

Veggie Garden

Building self-identity through gardening is a way for this 15-year-old female to learn a skill.

This garden project has the capability to change the course of her life. She cares for her family.

The product from the garden is also used in the meals at youth house.



This young man's name is Matt. He is ok with having his photo published. His story is one from hopelessness to connection, recovery and health.

Thank-you
for choosing us we are so grateful.

<https://www.youthunlimited.com/mission>

Heritage Park Middle School

Fraser River
Heritage Park

Lisa Duthie, ISP Teacher

A group of special Heritage Park Middle School students spend their Wednesday mornings attending to the gardens at Fraser River Heritage Park under the guidance of Sandie, the resident caretaker. The students, who are part of a life skills program, have learned the value of community spaces. They continue to learn about the existing plants and how to take care of them as well as planting new plants to enhance the beauty of the park.

One plant is the Caitlin rhododendron, Mission's official flower since 2007. The students have learned to recognize, appreciate, and care for Caitlin. Learning the history of the Caitlin rhododendron has fostered a connection between the students and the community where they live, learn, and play.

The open space, mature trees, rhododendron and rose gardens are cared for by the students throughout the school year. During the winter, the students are eager to keep the park pristine



by picking up garbage, planting bulbs, topping up the soil and bark mulch, and removing old, dead plants while anticipating the arrival of spring and the parade of colour as the park comes to life. The greatest joy is waiting for Caitlin to bloom.

We hope to continue to share this work with future students at the middle school. The students are curious about the “garden to plate” process and would like to explore this program.

With our small garden we hope to learn about growing vegetables. Our well-used garden tools need some additions or replacements.

SHOWCASE

Town of Qualicum Beach – Pollinator Friendly Garden

If you wander around Qualicum Beach, amongst the bees you may notice signs tucked among paths and plantings that read: *"Pollinator Friendly Garden: This area provides food, nesting and resting for pollinators."*



A Pollinator Pathway is a connected network of gardens and green spaces that provide food and shelter for bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, and other pollinators. By planting native flowers, avoiding pesticides, and linking yards, parks, and boulevards, we create safe "pathways" that help pollinators thrive and keep our community blooming!

A cornerstone of this approach is the Town's pesticide-free practices. Instead of relying on chemical sprays, staff use natural solutions such as vinegar and beneficial insects to manage pests. This method protects pollinators and also ensures healthier soils, cleaner water, and a more resilient ecosystem overall.

The Town also actively incorporates native species into its garden beds, with the newest example being the Waterfront Roundabout Garden. This waterfront space, spanning 1,450 m², is planted entirely with native species, with more than 20 varieties in total. Examples include wild strawberries, logan berries, broadleaf stonecrop, arbutus roses, sea thrift, and yarrow.

These species are not only beautiful, but also well-suited to our climate, resilient to drought, and highly attractive to local pollinators. With thoughtful design and natural stewardship, Qualicum Beach is ensuring pollinators have the resources they need today and for generations to come.



2026 PROVINCIAL PROGRAM INFORMATION – www.bccib.ca

EVALUATED OPTIONS - (links to separate form)		AWARDS
	GROW MODIFIED EVALUATION – 3 Criteria Only - For first time, smaller or returning municipalities who want a simpler CiB option. - Participants may choose any 3 criteria to be evaluated OR choose a theme. - Host a pair of judges. (shortened tour day) – see additional details for more info. ENHANCEMENT: Community Appearance Landscape Areas Plant & Floral Displays CONSERVATION: Environmental Action Heritage Conservation Tree Management	Awarding Certificate and Report with no Bloom Rating Eligible to Win a Criteria Award*
	BLOOM FULL EVALUATION – all 6 Criteria. - Open to all Municipalities wanting the full program experience and its many benefits. - Gain social value from the community involvement elements of the program. 5-Bloom Winners receive special recognition. - Future entry point for National and International Communities in Bloom competition. - Host a pair of judges. (2-hr first day, 7-hr tour day) EVALUATION CRITERIA: Community Appearance Environmental Action Heritage Conservation Tree Management Landscape Areas Plant & Floral Displays	Awarding Blooms  Eligible to Win a Criteria Award* Or Outstanding Community Involvement Trophy
*SPONSORED CRITERIA AWARDS recognize outstanding achievement in specific evaluation criteria or to encourage communities working towards 5-Blooms. British Columbia Communities in Bloom values its relationship with our sponsors; we thank them for their support.		
COMMUNITY RECEIVES: - Getting Started Package of Information. - Evaluation by a pair of trained BC CiB Judges. - Evaluation Report with Comments & Suggestions. - Rating Certificate (Blooms only for full evaluated program). 5-Bloom Winners receive special recognition. - Profile on newsletter, press releases, www.bccib.ca website and Gardens BC tourism website.	PROGRAM BENEFITS: - Strengthens community pride for residents and businesses - Collaborative, creates opportunities to celebrate volunteers - Enhances enjoyment and value of green spaces - Highlights climate action initiatives - Contributes to a healthy social & economic lifestyle - Profile for best features of the Community - Measurable results with year over year benefits	
ADDITIONAL DETAILS: - Grow a local 'in Bloom' committee to build collaboration with residents, businesses, service clubs and a municipal rep. (Councillor, Public Works, Administration or Parks & Recreation staff). - Plan to meet online mid-season with Provincial CiB Judges with a Virtual Check Up on how to support your CiB efforts. - Develop a basic budget to cover registration fee and to create community wide CiB awareness projects, i.e.: parades, tidy up days. Consider planning some fundraising events too. Document volunteer contributions. - Create a Community Profile Document to capture components judges may not see in person. Plan a judge's tour to view community in the 3 or 6 evaluation criteria. (Once registered, additional information is provided in the Getting Started Package). - Host 2-judges in 2nd week of July (TBC), in separate rooms (Hotel, B&B or Billeting if certain conditions can be met), with meals during evaluation day. Expect to host two nights minimum; some factors will necessitate +/- night and will be determined asap. - Communities will be presented a Certificate and a Report at the Provincial Awards in the fall. (Event details to be confirmed) - Evaluating three or six criteria, the report creates a benchmark score to celebrate successes and for future improvements.		
NON-EVALUATED OPTIONS - (links to separate form)		
	FRIENDS For communities that want recognition for ongoing CiB initiatives but want to take time off from evaluation. (see form front) Bonus: this category is encouraged to provide a Showcase.	
MEMBERSHIP (requires separate form) – The BC CiB organization represents all areas of the province, if you would like more information go to our website's Volunteer page.		
		(links to separate form)

Announcing this year's Theme



Fellow Bloomers,

On behalf of Communities in Bloom, I wish to extend my deepest gratitude to you for your participation in this year's program. Your dedication, vision, and commitment have contributed in meaningful ways to the enhancement of your community and exemplify the values that guide the program.

The 2025 theme, Edible Gardens, highlighted the importance of creating green spaces that are both sustainable and engaging. Through your efforts—whether cultivating productive community gardens, enhancing biodiversity, or encouraging civic engagement—you have strengthened the social and environmental fabric of your community, leaving a legacy for residents and visitors alike.

Since its inception in 1995, Communities in Bloom has grown from a modest initiative recognizing 29 municipalities to

a nationwide and international program, inspiring communities to pursue excellence in appearance, environmental action, heritage conservation, tree management, landscaping, and floral displays. Your contributions reflect the very essence of our motto, "Growing Great Places Together."

Looking forward, we are pleased to announce that the 2026 CiB theme will be Therapeutic Gardening. More than ever, we recognize the restorative power of green spaces—gardens that nurture the mind, body, and spirit. Whether through community gardens, sensory landscapes, or the simple joy of tending plants, therapeutic gardening fosters connection, resilience, and well-being.

As part of this initiative, we are proud to introduce the Always Together Rose, a beautiful new variety that symbolizes community, compassion, and hope. Proceeds from its sale will

support both the Never Alone Foundation and the Communities in Bloom Foundation, helping to advance programs that make a meaningful difference in people's lives. With the Always Together Rose, we are planting more than flowers—we are cultivating hope, fostering connection, and nurturing well-being for everyone in our communities.

We sincerely hope you will join us again in 2026, continuing to explore how therapeutic gardening can enrich communities, promote well-being, and inspire civic pride across Canada. Your participation is vital to the ongoing success of Communities in Bloom, and we would be honoured to celebrate your achievements once more.

With profound appreciation,
Peggy Head, National Chair,
Communities in Bloom
Board of Directors