

Community Recognition



Ts̓ilhqot'in Nation Celebrate Grand Opening of its Solar Farm

The Ts̓ilhqot'in Nation celebrated the Grand Opening of its Solar Farm on October 18, 2019. The Ts̓ilhqot'in Solar Farm is located 80 km west of Williams Lake on what is known as the Riverwest Sawmill. The 1.25-MW solar farm is the largest of its kind in British Columbia and is one hundred percent developed, built, owned and operated by the Ts̓ilhqot'in Nation. Climate change can have severe health impacts, so reducing greenhouse gas emissions is an important step in building healthy communities! See details [here](#).

Collaboration in Lake Country Leads to an Outdoor Classroom & Valuable Community-Wide Infrastructure

The Clearwater Park and Trail project has been a collaboration between the District of Lake Country, Walk Around Lake Country, Rotary Club of Lake Country and Ecole Peter Greer Elementary. It included the addition of an outdoor classroom, a trail connection from the Clearwater/Copper Hill neighbourhood to the Okanagan Rail Trail, as well as cleanup of barbwire fencing and debris from Clearwater Park. See the full story [here](#).

Pathways to Collaboration: Okanagan Indian Band & City of Vernon

Pathways to Collaboration is a joint initiative of the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM), the Province of British Columbia, and the First Nations Summit with funding from the Indigenous Business & Investment Council. The project aims to showcase the growing number of successful economic development collaborations and partnerships between First Nations and local governments, while highlighting lessons learned and key steps to success. The Okanagan Indian Band and the City of Vernon have been working together to create healthy environments for everyone. See details [here](#).

High School 'Buy-Back' Program for Vape Pens Support Health in Revelstoke

The City of Revelstoke's [Clean Air Bylaw \(October 2018\)](#) is intended to regulate, prohibit, and impose requirements for the health, safety, and welfare of residents of the City of Revelstoke. Along with cigarette products the bylaw also includes e-cigarettes, vapes and other lighted smoking equipment that burns tobacco, cannabis, or any other weed substance. Recently, Revelstoke Secondary School initiated a [vapes buy-back program](#) in turn for credit at the school cafeteria as well as opportunities for vaping or smoking cessation supports. Furthermore, a [youth-led research project](#) about vaping in BC has analyzed data from the BC Adolescent Health Survey and has summarized [key findings](#) and recommendations to support youth in making informed decision about vaping.



Events & Learning Opportunities

100+ Free Online Courses to Learn about the UN's Sustainable Development Goals

The [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDG\)](#) have served as a platform for organizing global, national, local, and individual action covering topics such as health, inequality, climate change, and more. Class Central has pulled together a [giant list of courses](#) that will teach you about the SDGs. Whether you're interested in poverty reduction, human rights, food security, public health, education, or any other sustainable development topic, these courses will help you join efforts to achieve prosperity for both people and planet.



Webinar: Cannabis and Motor Vehicle Collisions



Cannabis use can result in attention deficits, slowed information processing, impaired coordination, and slowed reaction time... none of which you want while driving! Systematic reviews suggest that drivers who use cannabis have an increased risk of being involved in a collision, although the risk is less than that associated with alcohol. This webinar on **November 21st at 10am PST** summarizes the evidence regarding cannabis and motor vehicle collisions and provides recommendations. No RSVP required, just click [on this link](#) to download Bluejeans and access the webinar.

Webinar: Social Prescribing - Collaborating for Systems Change



[Social prescribing](#) is a structured way of referring people to a range of local, non-clinical services. This asset-based approach goes beyond treating illnesses. It recognizes people as not just patients with needs, but as community members with gifts to share, while supporting them to engage with and contribute back to their communities. Social prescribing has been piloted in Community Health Centres in Ontario and Quebec over the past year.

To learn more about what social prescribing looks like as a sustainable, systems solution and how diverse community and healthcare partners can collaborate to implement and scale this work, register for [this webinar](#) on **December 6th at 9am PST**.

BC Active Transportation Design Guide Fall 2019 Training Workshops

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is excited to offer training on the Active Transportation Design Guide for design professionals across the province and to support applications for the provincial active transportation grant program. The training consists of a one-day workshop that provides a comprehensive overview of the Design Guide using a range of learning tools, including presentations, videos, discussions, and hands on exercises.



One workshop will be offered in the Interior Health area on **December 13th in Kelowna (Rotary Centre for the Arts) from 8:30am-5:30pm**. Registration is \$250 (plus GST and booking fee) per person and [can be done online](#).

Healthy Public Policy Resources

New Employer Resource: The Living Wage for Local Governments

The living wage is crucial for local governments. Tens of thousands of working families live in poverty in BC, and we all suffer when our neighbours can't make ends meet. As significant employers in their communities, [local governments can make a difference](#) by paying their staff and contractors a living wage and becoming local champions for fair wages. Within the link you can click through to [The Business Case for a Living Wage](#) and [Working in a Living Wage Municipality](#).

Municipal Natural Asset Management

[Municipal Natural Asset Management](#) is a relatively new concept. It is applying the asset management approach to natural features in the local setting (e.g. wetland, soils, etc.). It suggests these natural features are assets to the community and instead of taking them for granted a monetary value should be applied to them as it is to the sewer system or road network in order to manage them. Once a value has been applied then the asset can be monitored, managed and compared to all of the other assets of a community (i.e. not overlooked), and more fully informed decisions can be made.



Website Launch - Canadian Network for the Health and Housing of the Homeless



The Canadian Network for the Health and Housing of the Homeless (CNH3) is [formally launching](#) with the goal of teaming up the health and housing sectors to collaboratively bring about a health-informed end to homelessness. [CNH3](#)

aims to be a collaborative problem-solving platform that will provide the opportunity for organizations across Canada that are working at the interface of health, shelter, and housing sectors to provide each other with mutual support and creative community practice.

Relationship Between Neighbourhood Built Environments and Outdoor Play

[A recent study](#) examined the relationship between attributes of the neighbourhood built environment and the time BC children and adolescents (0–18 years) spend in self-directed outdoor play. Researchers found moderate evidence that lower traffic volumes, yard access, and increased neighbourhood greenness were positively associated with time spent in outdoor play for some age groups. To our knowledge, this is the first systematic review on this topic.

Funding News

Community Greening Grants Now Open!

Tree Canada's [Edible Trees program](#) reconnects people back to their local food sources and builds community. Tree Canada is committed to providing the support and resources needed for planting edible trees and shrubs in communities across Canada. First Nations, municipalities, or any community-based projects looking to plant edible trees or shrubs may apply. Deadline for submission is **November 28, 2019**.

C2C Funding and New Guide

Community to Community (C2C) Forum events are intended to provide a time and place for dialogue to build on opportunities, support reconciliation efforts, resolve issues of common responsibility, interest or concern, and/or to advance tangible outcomes. The updated [Guide to Community to Community Forums](#) in BC was published in September 2019 to support the provincial focus on reconciliation. Prior applicants are welcome to reapply to the funding program, and [application materials](#) are now available. Applications are due on **December 6th, 2019**.

Guide to Community
to Community
Forums in
British Columbia
September 2019

Funding for Indigenous Cultural Safety and Cultural Humility Training

UBCM now has [funding available](#) to support emergency management personnel with cultural safety and humility training in order to more effectively partner with and provide assistance to Indigenous communities during times of emergency. From a health perspective, Indigenous people are more likely to live shorter lives of poorer health compared with non-Indigenous people, so further resources need to go in the direction of supporting the well-being of Indigenous communities. Applications are due on **December 13th, 2019**.

Gender Equity in Recreational Sport: Community Grants Initiative



Applications are now being accepted for the new [Gender Equity in Recreational Sport: Community Grants Initiative](#). Funding will support efforts to increase the participation and retention of girls and women in recreational sport in Canada. Canadian municipalities and Indigenous communities are encouraged to apply. Applications are due on **December 15, 2019**.

Investing in Green Infrastructure Program - Environmental Quality

The Canadian and British Columbian governments have committed up to \$150 million towards the second intake of the [Green Infrastructure – Environmental Quality Program](#) to support cost-sharing of infrastructure projects in communities across the province. Applications are due on **February 26, 2020**.

Sincerely,

Your Healthy Communities Team

Contact us at: healthycommunities@interiorhealth.ca

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