



MEDIA RELEASE – FOR RELEASE October 15, 2025

Regional Leaders Advance Mental Health and Addictions Collaboration at 2025 Symposium

Accord signatories and invited guests from across northern British Columbia will gather in Prince George on October 15, 2025, for the 2025 Mental Health and Addictions Symposium, co-hosted by the North Central Local Government Association, the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, the City of Prince George, and the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George.

The event will bring together Accord signatory representatives to share progress under the Mental Health and Addictions Accord and explore next steps to strengthen coordinated regional responses.

The day will open with a traditional welcome and territorial acknowledgment, followed by opening remarks from the co-hosts. Participants will share of collective efforts to address mental health and addictions. Morning plenary sessions will highlight survey results and reflections from Accord signatories, and Facilitators will guide participants through a series of World Café discussions focused on:

- Trauma-informed systems of care
- Cultural safety and humility
- Local action plans and implementation supports
- Strengthening interagency and government partnerships
- Wellness in the workplace

Throughout the day, participants will document priorities and commitments to advance the Accord's goals. In the final plenary, attendees will revisit the Accord, reaffirming commitments and identifying next steps for tracking collective progress and accountability.

This 2025 Symposium builds upon the foundation established through the 2024 Symposium, reinforcing the value of collaboration among local governments, First Nations, and community service organizations in addressing complex social and health challenges.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

City of Prince George:

Prince George, known as the "Gathering Place" of British Columbia, serves as a central hub for commerce, education, healthcare, and culture in Northern BC, with a population of approximately 74,000. The city is committed to fostering growth, sustainability, and a high quality of life for its residents. Its involvement in hosting both the 2024 and 2025 Mental Health and Addictions Symposiums reflects the city's dedication to addressing critical health issues and supporting community well-being.

Lheidli T'enneh First Nation:

The Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, whose traditional territory includes the confluence of the Fraser and



Nechako Rivers in what is now Prince George, plays a vital role in the cultural and historical fabric of the region. The Nation is committed to preserving its heritage while fostering economic and social development for its members. Their collaboration in the 2024 Mental Health and Addictions Symposium underscores their dedication to improving health outcomes for all communities within their territory.

Regional District of Fraser-Fort George:

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George, located in central British Columbia, encompasses its four member municipalities (City of Prince George, Villages of McBride and Valemount, and District of Mackenzie) and surrounding rural communities. Known for its stunning natural landscapes and rich resources, the RDFFG supports a robust economy driven by forestry, agriculture, mining, and tourism. Committed to sustainable development, RDFFG provides essential services such as 9-1-1, emergency management, waste management, regional planning and community recreation. Their participation in the 2024 Mental Health and Addictions Symposium highlights their commitment to enhancing quality of life and fostering a strong sense of community.

NCLGA:

Established in 1955, the North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA) is the advocacy body for local government officials in North Central British Columbia. Spanning from 100 Mile House to the Yukon border and from Haida Gwaii to Alberta, the association represents over 240 elected officials across 42 local governments. The NCLGA is dedicated to addressing the unique challenges and opportunities in the region, including those related to mental health and addictions, as highlighted by the upcoming 2025 Symposium.

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