



MEDIA RELEASE – FOR RELEASE October 20, 2025

2025 Symposium Strengthens Joint Responses to Mental Health and Addictions Crisis in Northern and Central BC

The 2025 Mental Health and Addictions Symposium was held on October 15, 2025 in Prince George, BC, co-hosted in partnership with the City of Prince George, the Regional District of Fraser Fort George, and the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation. This event was to support coordinated joint and regional responses to the mental health and addictions crisis in Northern and Central BC.

As a follow-up to the 2024 Mental Health and Addictions Symposium, this gathering focused in on advocacy actions and priorities of the 30 signatory agencies who signed on to the Accord in 2024, as well as inviting new signatories and guests to join the collaborative discussions. Accord signatories include representatives of local governments, First Nations, and mental health and addictions service and resource agencies in Northern and Central BC.

Signatories gathered to strengthen relationships, learn from each other, and share progress on advocacy activities related to the [Mental Health and Addictions Accord](#). A range of plenary sessions were held, allowing opportunity for participants to share roundtable updates on successful mental health and addictions initiatives, as well as barriers and challenges that remain in their communities and regions.

Participants engaged in facilitated group discussions on topics including:

- Trauma-Informed Systems of Care
- Cultural Safety and Humility in Services
- Supporting Local Action Plans
- Strengthening Interagency and Government Partnerships
- Wellness in the Workplace – Caring for the Caregivers

The Accord was revisited as a living document, and reflections were shared on advocacy priorities. Priority actions and commitments were identified related to advancing next steps, tracking collective progress and fostering shared accountability.

We are pleased to announce that nine new First Nations, local governments and agencies signed on to commit to the Mental Health and Addictions Accord:

- Village of Granisle
- Village of Burns Lake
- District of Hudson's Hope
- Village of Fraser Lake
- Tahltan Band
- Association Advocating for Women and Community (AWAC)
- Prince George Sexual Assault Centre
- Northern Peer Guardians
- Youth Wellness Society of Mackenzie



"It has been our honour to co-host this important day and facilitate the sharing of stories and conversation aimed at determining what comes next. The discussions were heartfelt and honest about the mental health and addictions crisis in our communities. It is clear we all want to improve conditions for our residents. One need clearly expressed is for more communication among us, and sharing successes with our neighbours." - Gladys Atrill, NCLGA president

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 2025 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 2025 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 2025 Symposium.

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