

GOOD NEWS STORIES

*From our North Zone
Health Neighbourhoods*

Sharing the Good News

December 2021/January 2022 Edition

The North Zone currently has two active Health Neighbourhoods: **Peace Country Health Neighbourhood** and **Wood Buffalo Health Neighbourhood**.

Each Health Neighbourhood has two active Mini Working Groups where Membership comes together to get to the action in specific priority areas in primary health care. The Health Neighbourhood model encourages the "new way of working," which is open, honest, and truly collaborative in approach, with Membership representing diverse sectors and identities.

This reporting is not about "the numbers" side of the project; instead, **this reporting is about showcasing the warm stories demonstrating grassroots actions, collaboration, and what we feel to be amazing successes** coming from our North Zone Health Neighbourhoods.

"We have different walks of life trying to work together to make a difference - community and health care."

Enjoy.

"We use the word *collaboration* a lot in our work, but true collaboration is hard work with many ups and downs. People still coming to the table even through the downs is a mark of success for us."



North Zone Health
Neighbourhood

Good News in the Neighbourhoods

Wood Buffalo Health Neighbourhood

- The Addiction & Mental Health (AMH) Mini Working Group team held the 1st event of their online series, "**Connect-Relate-Collaborate**" which focused on building relationships in the addictions and mental health sector in the Wood Buffalo region. Great turn out, great prizes from local organizations, and a sharing of personal and impactful stories made the event a complete success!
- The Transitions in Care (TiC) Mini Working Group team is preparing to launch a poster for local sites in Fort McMurray encouraging patients & family to own their health care and ask questions of their health care providers. Look for the "**It's Okay To Ask**" poster coming soon!

"To see Alberta Health Services and Primary Care Network staff working together closely is to see change in action."

Peace Country Health Neighbourhood

- The Transitions Mini Working Group is partnering with **Drive Happiness**, a not-for-profit society that assists people in getting rides to medical appointments. The new partnership is bringing together multiple community partners to discuss how to bring Drive Happiness to Grande Prairie so transportation gaps can be improved!
- The Unattached/Vulnerable Mini Working Group is focused on connecting people in the Peace River area with community-based services. Working in **partnership with Family Community Support Services (FCSS)**, the team has distributed their service posters to local day cares, hospital sites, the prison, medical clinics, and Friendship Centres. Keep an eye out for the Peace River "Everyone Needs Help Sometimes" Poster!

"Daycare staff and a parent using the daycare were so grateful to receive the 'Everyone Needs Help Sometimes' information!"



North Zone Health Neighbourhood

Great Expectations in 2022

The **North Zone Health Neighbourhood** model will be introduced to other regions in Northern Alberta.

We hope that the Health Neighbourhood work will lead to positive outcomes in individuals and the communities where Health Neighbourhoods operate out of:

Individual Outcomes

- Better community member (patients, caregivers, and family members) experiences in primary health care
- Membership within Health Neighbourhoods increase their development in collaboration, leadership, and facilitation
- Membership within Health Neighbourhoods expand their networks
- More community members attached to health homes (patient medical home) and understanding the importance of the health home

Community Outcomes

- The "new way of working" (collaboratively, and in safer spaces) changes how we work, engage, and share information
- Lower health care system costs due to sharing services and platforms across areas
- Increased benefit for community-based organizations requiring health sector partnerships
- Engaged and empowered communities
- Improved and connected health services

Would you like more information on the North Zone Health Neighbourhoods? Please contact Robyn Laczy: rlaczy@gmail.com or call her at (780) 802-6380