

# Interior Health in your region



## Central Okanagan

### Regional Impacts



**8,419+**  
IH Staff



**1**  
Hospitals



**19**  
Health Care  
Facilities



**4**  
IH Long Term  
Care Facilities



**251,124**  
Total  
Population

## Program and service highlights

### Bring your own 'AI scribe' increases efficiency

KGH has been the pilot site for testing AI scribing technology to support physicians in finding efficiencies with day-to-day documentation requirements. Now, the 'Bring Your Own AI Scribe' initiative is being rolled out and tested across IH to help medical staff reduce their administrative volume and enhance the quality of patient care. Staff may choose an approved AI application and configure it to the organization's privacy and security standards before initiating the scribing technology.

### Robotic technology enhances surgical procedures

Interior Health is introducing Robotic-Assisted Surgery technology to provide care to patients that is less-invasive where possible. Laparoscopic tools connected to a surgeon-controlled robot, will provide three-dimensional visualization and an enhanced range of motion and control. The use of a robot for surgeries is a first at IH and will be used for more complex urology, colorectal, and thoracic surgeries. [Watch the video](#)

### From courtyard to connection – new mural inspires healing

A simple courtyard in KGH's McNair psychiatric unit has been transformed into a vibrant healing space through a new mural created by local artists Jorden and David Doody and syilx artist Sheldon Louis. The mural reflects landscapes and cultural connections of Mission Creek, featuring flowing water, trees, kokanee salmon and a traditional tule-covered lodge. The project, supported by Interior Health staff and the KGH Foundation, highlights the power of art, culture and community to support mental wellness and recovery. [Read the full story](#)

### Home-based hospital care focuses on patients

Residents of the Central Okanagan now have the option to receive hospital-level care from the comfort and privacy of their own home with the launch of Interior Health's first Hospital at Home (HaH) program at KGH. [Read the full story](#)

# Employee Recruitment

## Nursing and allied health



in regular front-line employees from  
**15,147 to 19,124**

(5-year Period 2020-2025)

### Top areas of growth

- RN: 19%
- LPN: 8%
- Care Aide: 7%

## IH is attracting new nurses to the Central Okanagan region

In the Central Okanagan region, 178 nursing graduates have been hired in the past year including 55 licensed practical nurses and 123 RNs/RPNs. This is the fourth year in a row that IH has increased the number of new graduate nurses hired throughout the region. Approximately 900 new graduate nurses have been onboarded since 2023.



## Students glimpse health careers during focused day of learning

Kelowna General Hospital hosted 115 grade 10–12 students from School District No. 23 this past spring for an informative health-care careers day. Seventeen staff members from Interior Health participated, providing students with insights and answering questions. [Read the full story.](#)





# Physician Recruitment

IH-wide, 2020-2025



**16%**  
INCREASE

in full-time  
equivalent positions



**29%**  
INCREASE

in physician contracts

Central Okanagan top  
areas of recruitment

- Anesthesiology
- Hospitalists
- Emergency  
Medicine
- Pediatrics

## Recruitment and partnerships boost KGH pediatric services

The arrival this fall of four pediatricians and one pediatric associate physician to KGH is welcome news for staff and physicians at the hospital, as well as for people in Kelowna and across the Interior. Significant recruitment efforts to attract these experienced professionals to the highly specialized pediatric team at KGH will provide consistent and vital services for children and families in our region.



## Associate physicians supporting care, gaining experience

Interior Health has recruited ten associate physicians to KGH since August 2023, including its first pediatric care associate physician who joined the team in July 2025. Associates are internationally trained physicians who work under the supervision of a licensed colleague, often as they pursue their own independent licence.



# Investments advance health care in the region

## Capital and Equipment 2021-2025

**\$186.8**  
million

Cottonwoods Long Term  
Care Replacement

**\$37.8**  
million

Kelowna General Hospital  
(KGH) MRI Replacement  
and Addition

**\$9.6**  
million

KGH Endovascular  
Treatment Equipment

**\$7.3**  
million

West Kelowna, Rutland  
Urgent Primary Care Centres

**\$6.9**  
million

KGH Operating  
Room Equipment

## New MRI technology enhances diagnostic capacity

KGH has expanded its medical imaging department with two new state-of-the-art MRI machines, improving access and reducing wait times for patients across the Interior. The upgraded technology, including AI-enhanced scanners, will allow up to 15,000 exams annually, operating 17 hours a day, seven days a week. Supported by provincial, regional hospital district and KGH Foundation funding, the \$37.8 million project continues through to 2026 with further renovations to the existing department and upgrades to the patient/visitor waiting room. [View the video.](#)

## Improvements at David Lloyd Jones Home keep residents cool and comfortable

Care at Kelowna's David Lloyd Jones Home received a recent boost thanks to renovations through the spring and summer of 2025 to improve the heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system. Two new roof-top units were installed to provide air conditioning and heat to the Bernard Wing of the facility, while upgrades to two additional wings earlier this summer are helping to keep residents comfortable in common areas and corridors.

## Lab upgrades boost reliability and support future growth

Upgrades to the Dr. Walter Anderson Building at KGH will enhance cooling capacity to keep pace with optimal temperatures for lab operations during hot weather and support advanced automation. The upgraded cooling system is designed to meet current needs and accommodate future growth contributing to innovation in lab environments.

## Three Links Manor modernizes spaces to improve workflow and safety

Renovations at Three Links Manor in Kelowna are improving staff safety and functionality through updates to the record storage area, nursing stations and medication rooms. Increased sight lines and a modernized medication room are supporting staff safety and workflows, while upgrades to the charting area will improve security and efficiency. These changes reflect Interior Health's commitment to creating safer, more supportive environments for care teams.

## Operational Investments 2021 – 2025

- Mental Health and Substance Use Programs - 2021-2025: \$33.6 million
- Surgical expansion and capacity building - 2021-2025: \$30.4 million
- Long Term Care (non capital projects) - 2025: \$12.2 million
- Central Okanagan Primary Care Network - 2021-2025: \$12 million