

# Interior Health in your region



## Kootenay East

### Regional Impacts



**2,909**

IH Staff



**5**

Hospitals



**17**

Health Care  
Facilities



**5**

IH Long Term  
Care Facilities



**94,350**

Total  
Population

## Program and service highlights

### Ktunaxa Nation input valued on new project

Interior Health's redevelopment of the Dr. F.W. Green Memorial Home in Cranbrook is moving forward with input from Ktunaxa Elders. In May 2025, project partners visited ʔamakʔis Ktunaxa (Ktunaxa Territory) to discuss the design and delivery of the new long-term care facility. The visit included a stop at the Ktunaxa-owned Nupqu Native Plant Nursery, where the team discussed incorporating native species and culturally significant plants into the new facility's landscaping. [Read the full story.](#)

### Volunteers play significant role at EKRH

Cranbrook students are making a positive impact at the East Kootenay Regional Hospital where they are sharing compassion and gathering knowledge through a successful volunteer program initiated by a member of the hospital staff. The program was expanded based on the number of requests received from students from Mount Baker Secondary School and College of the Rockies locally, who are interested in gaining hands-on experience in health care.

[Read the full story.](#)

### Elk Valley nurses recognized during National Week

The Elk Valley is home to a team of hard-working nurses who are dedicated to supporting residents throughout the region. There are many nurses employed in the Elk Valley specializing in multiple areas of nursing and working in a variety of settings, including acute care, administration and community care.

[Read the full story.](#)

### New portable ultrasound units donated to EKRH

Interior Health is grateful for two valuable supporters of health care in the East Kootenay who have teamed up to purchase two new portable ultrasound units for the East Kootenay Regional Hospital. The units are valued at \$71,000 each and were donated this year by the East Kootenay Foundation for Health and the Cranbrook Health Care Auxiliary. [Read the full story.](#)

# Employee Recruitment

## Nursing and allied health



**26%**

**INCREASE**

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%

## Healthcare Travelling Roadshow inspires next generation

This past May, more than 450 students from Salmo, Creston and Lumby got to roll up their sleeves and explore real-world health-care careers. Nine post-secondary health-care students answered questions and led hands-on activities representing medicine, nursing, midwifery, pharmacy, cardiology technology and respiratory therapy. [Read the full article.](#)



## IH increased numbers of new graduate nurses hired

For the fourth year, Interior Health increased the number of new graduate nurses hired. Approximately 900 new grad nurses have been onboarded since 2023. In the East Kootenay, 39 graduates have been hired in the past year including six licensed practical nurses and 33 registered nurses.



# Physician Recruitment

IH-wide, 2020-2025



**16%**  
INCREASE

in full-time  
equivalent positions



**26%**  
INCREASE

in physician contracts

**East Kootenay top  
areas of recruitment**

- Family Practice
- Emergency  
Medicine

## Community partnership brings more family physicians to the EK

Through collaboration with EK Division of Family Practice and community-based recruiters, Interior Health is welcoming seven new family physicians to the East Kootenay, with estimated start dates between September 2025 and March 2026. These physicians will be working in Fernie, Elkford, Cranbrook and Creston.



## Physicians contribute to team-based care at Elkford UPCC

The Elkford UPCC opened on May 21, 2025, providing team-based urgent and same-day primary care appointments. This UPCC has been positively received in the community and the care team is now fully recruited with a continuing physician, a newly recruited physician, and an internationally trained physician set to begin in March 2026.



# Investments advance health care in the region

## Capital and Equipment 2021-2025

**\$236.2**  
million

**Dr. F.W. Green Memorial Home  
Redevelopment**

**\$58.9**  
million

**East Kootenay Regional Hospital  
(EKRH) Oncology & Renal Expansion**

**\$5.7**  
million

**EKRH MRI Replacement**

**\$11.2**  
million

**EK Primary Care Network Projects**

**\$3**  
million

**Cranbrook Urgent Primary  
Care Centre**

## Dr. F.W. Green Memorial Home Redevelopment

This major redevelopment adds 87 more long-term care beds and three additional hospice beds to the East Kootenay, along with community spaces and services for residents, families, visitors and staff. A ground-breaking celebration with local, regional and Ktunaxa Nation representatives was hosted in September 2025 with construction beginning the same month.

## East Kootenay Regional Hospital Oncology Renal Expansion

Interior Health is advancing oncology and renal care with a new, modern facility at East Kootenay Regional Hospital. Designed to meet anticipated 20-year growth needs, the expanded space will enhance patient care and improve health service delivery through the new design. A generous \$15 million donation from Elk Valley Resources, along with funding from the Kootenay East Regional Hospital District, is anticipated to support this project.

## Golden Primary Care Network

People in Golden will soon experience more connected team-based care in a newly leased building that will house the Golden Primary Care Network. The clinic will house a variety of health-care professionals, including physicians, nurse practitioners, physiotherapists and social workers.

## Swan Valley Lodge Building Update

Seniors and staff at Swan Valley Lodge in Creston will benefit from an overall improvement to the facility, with upgrades to the elevator and heating and cooling systems.

## Operational Investments 2021-2025

- Mental Health and Substance Use Services and Resources: \$6.3 million
- Acute bed expansion: \$5.2 million
- Surgical capacity investments: \$4.96 million
- Seniors Care: \$1.8 million