

Interior Health in your region



North Okanagan Columbia Shuswap Regional Impacts



4,467

IH Staff



3

Hospitals



18

Health Care
Facilities



8

IH Long-Term
Care Facilities



148,306

Total
Population

Program and service highlights

High school students connect to health-care careers

In June 2025, close to 800 grade-9 students from the Vernon area were introduced to Okanagan College's (OC) health-care programming and the pathways that can lead them to a rewarding career in health. The event was a partnership between OC, School District No. 22 and Interior Health and provided students opportunities to interact with health-care professionals, ask questions and experience a little of what a career in health care is like. [Read the OC News article.](#)

Second UPCC expands access to team-based care in Vernon

Planning continues to support the opening of a new UPCC in Vernon in 2026. The UPCC will be the second such health facility in the community and will provide urgent primary care services seven days a week to all community members who need them.

Interior Health Peers highlight toxic-drug crisis through art exhibit

Peers from the Vernon Downtown Mental Health and Substance Use Clinic led a grassroots art initiative to recognize International Overdose Awareness Day on Aug. 31, 2025 and address stigma over the longer term. The unique exhibit amplifies artistic expression from those with lived and living experiences of substance use. [Read the full story.](#)

New nursing roles created at VJH through provincial staffing initiative

The Ministry of Health's Minimum Nurse-to-Patient Ratios initiative has led to the creation of 44 new nursing positions at VJH so far. Recruitment is underway to fill the positions added to general medicine, general surgery and the pediatric unit, with 13 spots filled as of September 2025.

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%

IH is attracting new nurses to the North Okanagan Region

In the North Okanagan, 58 nursing graduates have been hired in the past year including 27 licensed practical nurses and 31 registered nurses. 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.



Path to permanent residency supports international workers

Interior Health is an approved designated employer in the North Okanagan-Shuswap region under the Government of Canada's [Rural Community Immigration Pilot \(RCIP\)](#). The RCIP is a community driven program that helps rural communities retain skilled workers by offering a pathway to permanent residency for eligible employees of designated employers.



Physician Recruitment

IH-wide, 2020-2025



16%
INCREASE

in full-time
equivalent positions



29%
INCREASE

in physician contracts

North Okanagan
Columbia Shuswap
top areas of
recruitment

- Hospitalists
- Radiology
- Orthopedic surgery (SLGH, VJH)

Associate physician welcomed at VJH with additional positions anticipated

Vernon Jubilee Hospital (VJH) has its first associate physician already on the job and supporting hospitalists in the Inpatient unit, while another associate physician is expected later this year. Associates are internationally trained physicians who work under the supervision of a licensed colleague, often as they pursue their own independent licence.



VJH strengthens acute care services with expanded Nurse Practitioner team

Three nurse practitioners are now fully integrated with hospitalists at VJH, working collaboratively with physicians to provide care for patients with a range of acute needs. The nurse practitioner program will provide seven-day-a-week coverage following completion of training and orientation. This team-based work supports more consistent, high-quality care and reflects Interior Health's commitment to patients.



Investments advance health care in the region

Capital and Equipment 2021-2025

\$9.1
million

**Vernon Urgent Primary
Care Centres 1 and 2 – #1 in
2021 and #2 in progress**

\$6.1
million

**Vernon Jubilee Hospital
(VJH) Ultrasound/Medical
Imaging – in progress**

\$5.7
million

VJH CT Scanner – 2025

\$4.95
million

**Queen Victoria Hospital
Infrastructure – 2023**

\$2.95
million

**Shuswap Lake General
Hospital Pharmacy
Renovation**

Vernon Community Dialysis Unit relocates to serve more patients

Dialysis patients in the North Okanagan have improved access to care with the opening of the relocated Vernon Community Dialysis Unit, which features expanded capacity and modern equipment. The new facility offers treatment six days a week allowing for up to 14,040 treatments annually. Supported by BC Renal, the Vernon Jubilee Hospital Foundation, and community partners, the \$5.1 million project enhances patient comfort, supports home dialysis training, and prioritizes culturally safe, person-centred care.

Interior Health invests in infrastructure at VJH to support staff and patient-centred care

Interior Health is investing in key infrastructure upgrades at VJH to enhance safety, comfort, and care delivery for patients, residents and staff. Improvements include:

- A multi-phase electrical upgrade, including new electrical rooms, a modern generator, and updated distribution panels, to ensure reliable power across both hospital towers.
- Upgrades to the bariatric autopsy suite, cadaver storage, forensic and specimen areas, as well as secure staff spaces to improve workflows, privacy, and comfort.
- A new wearable panic alarm system to enhance staff safety, especially in high-paced areas such as the emergency department. When activated, the system provides real-time location tracking, allowing rapid response and support where it's needed most.

Pleasant Valley Manor benefits from cooling system overhaul

To improve comfort for long-term care residents and staff during heat waves and smoky conditions, the chiller and cooling tower at Pleasant Valley Manor in Armstrong are being replaced with a larger, more efficient unit. The new system will be relocated to a more suitable location, improving performance and accessibility.

Operational Investments 2021 – 2025

- Long-Term Care Investments (non capital) - 2025: \$11.2 million
- Surgical Capacity Increase - 2021-2025: \$8.3 million
- Mental Health and Substance Use Services/Programs - 2021-2025: \$8.1 million
- Seniors Care (community based) - 2024-2025: \$6.4 million