

Interior Health in your region



Okanagan-Similkameen

Regional Impacts



3,365+

IH Staff



3

Hospitals



10

Health Care
Facilities



6

IH Long-Term
Care Facilities



91,832

Total
Population

Program and service highlights

Penticton Care Teams Celebrate Renewed Baby-Friendly Designation

Penticton Regional Hospital and the Penticton Health Centre are recognized for excellence in newborn care, having earned and renewed their Baby-Friendly Initiative designation in 2024 and 2025. This achievement highlights the significant support care teams provide to babies and new parents, helping families start their journey with confidence. The designation is a reflection of Interior Health's commitment to creating safe, nurturing environments for babies and their families.

Keremeos Clinic Renovations Enhance Patient Care and Efficiency

Recent renovations at the South Similkameen Health Centre in Keremeos are helping improve the way care is delivered. Nurses and allied health professionals now benefit from upgraded spaces and modern equipment, allowing them to work more efficiently to support the focus on patient care. These improvements also pave the way for more coordinated care, as health care teams work together to meet the needs of the community.

Patient sedation service at PRH Hospital MRI cuts down on travel needs to access care

Penticton Regional Hospital began offering sedation for patients six years and older undergoing an MRI starting in April 2025. The service is offered one day per month and has already attracted a number of local patients who no longer need to travel to Kelowna for the service.

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%

New nurses recruited for South Similkameen Health Centre (SSHC)

Additional nursing positions at South Similkameen Health Centre associated with the minimum nurse-to-patient ratio initiative have been filled. New nurses started in August 2025 and they have doubled the number of nurses on shift supporting the site.



IH increases numbers of new graduate nurses hired

For the fourth year, Interior Health has increased the number of new graduate nurses hired. Approximately 900 new grad nurses have been onboarded since 2023. In the Okanagan Similkameen Region, 52 graduates have been hired in the past year including 28 licensed practical nurses and 24 registered nurses.



Physician Recruitment

IH-wide, 2020-2025



16%
INCREASE

in full-time
equivalent positions



29%
INCREASE

in physician contracts

Okanagan
Similkameen
top areas of
recruitment

- Family Practice
- OBGYN
- Pathology
- Dermatology

Princeton welcomes new doctors to support local primary care delivery

Two new physicians will be joining the Princeton community in September 2025 through the Practice-Ready Assessment program. They will provide care at the Cascade Medical Clinic, located within Princeton General Hospital, and contribute to the local primary care network. Their arrival will help strengthen access to timely, team-based care for residents in the region.



New OBGYN coming to Penticton Regional Hospital

A new obstetrician-gynecologist (OBGYN) is joining Penticton Regional Hospital this September, strengthening access to specialized care for patients and families in the South Okanagan. This addition supports Interior Health's commitment to providing timely, high-quality maternity and women's health services close to home.



Investments advance health care in the region

Capital and Equipment 2020-2025

\$302.4
million

**Penticton Regional Hospital
(PRH) Patient Care Tower**

\$22
million

**PRH Oncology Dept
Renovation**

\$5
million

**PRH CT Scanner
(addition)**

\$4.1
million

**Princeton General Hospital
Electrical Infrastructure**

\$1.3
million

**Keremeos Primary Care
Network Renovation**

\$1.3
million

**South Okanagan General
Hospital Emergency
Department Renovation**

Expanded community oncology network clinic enhances patient care

Residents of the South Okanagan-Similkameen are benefiting from improved access to life-saving cancer care with the opening of the newly renovated and expanded Oncology Unit at Penticton Regional Hospital (PRH). The Oncology Unit has relocated from the first floor to the third floor of PRH tripling its previous size. The expanded space offers additional treatment areas, upgraded equipment, enhanced patient comfort, and increased staffing to better support patient care. [Watch the video](#)

Equipment improvements at PRH support care delivery

Over the past year, PRH has made key facility improvements that are modernizing infrastructure and enhancing care delivery.

- Medical Gas System Modernization
 - New distribution piping and medical gas outlets now support approximately 70 beds, bringing the system up to Canadian Standards Association requirements. These upgrades replace aging infrastructure in the Central Pavilion and South Pavilion—and make it easier to source replacement parts, improving reliability and safety for patients and staff.
- Water-Supply System Enhancements
 - The hospital has also upgraded its water-supply system by installing additional shut-off valves. These improvements allow staff to isolate leaks more effectively, minimizing disruptions and improving control over the system.

Domestic Water Line Replacement at retirement facility in Oliver improves residents' comfort

Sunnybank Retirement Centre in Oliver is undergoing important infrastructure upgrades with the replacement of domestic water lines originally installed in 1984. This investment will improve system reliability, prevent leaks, and protect resident spaces from potential damage.

Operational Investments 2019 – 2025

- Acute Bed Expansion - 2025: \$8.4 million
- South Okanagan Similkameen Primary Care Network - 2019-2025: \$7.9 million
- Mental Health and Substance Use Services and Resources - 2021-2025: \$6.9 million
- Surgical Capacity Investments - 2021-2025: \$6.4 million
- Seniors Care - 2021-2025: \$3.3 million