

# Interior Health in your region



## Thompson Nicola Regional Impacts



**5,800+**  
IH Staff



**4**  
Hospitals



**27**  
Health-Care  
Facilities



**6**  
IH Long-Term  
Care Facilities



**164,617**  
Total  
Population

## Program and service highlights

### Expanded services at Ashcroft UPCC support team-based family care

Alongside its existing urgent care services, the Ashcroft Urgent & Primary Care Centre (UPCC) has stepped up to offer team-based family primary care, providing support for everyday health needs, from regular check-ups to follow-up visits. Care is provided by physicians, registered nurses, an Indigenous Patient Navigator and allied health professionals.

### Kamloops Complex Care Housing expands to help more clients with complex needs

The first phase of complex care housing in Kamloops is close to being fully filled, providing stable housing and 24/7 wrap-around support for individuals with overlapping health challenges. Interior Health and BC Housing are expanding this program with a new 20-unit facility at 1100 Glenfair Drive, which is anticipated to open in 2027.

### Community Health Planning Table seeks diverse voices

Each community has unique health-care needs. Interior Health is striving to work with local Divisions of Family Practice, municipalities, First Nations and other partners to collaboratively address the causes of health issues and guide the development of inclusive, actionable solutions. This work is currently being planned at community tables in locations such as Ashcroft and Lillooet.

### Interior Health progresses rural ED stabilization

Through active recruitment, contract negotiation and consideration of virtual care options in the Thompson Region, Interior Health has made progress in stabilizing emergency services in Lillooet, Merritt and Clearwater. We are committed to keep the public updated on this progress.

# 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%

## Health Career Access Program marks milestone in Lillooet

Following the August 2024 graduation of the first cohort of students in the Health Career Access Program, Lillooet partners, including the Lillooet Tribal Council, Okanagan College and Interior Health have even more reasons to celebrate. Thanks to the joint initiative, six students graduated as health care assistants and almost all have joined IH in ongoing roles. [Read the full story.](#)

## Social worker joins team in Clearwater

The team at Dr. Helmcken Memorial Hospital welcomed a new graduate of Social Work from Thompson Rivers University to a position that had been vacant for some time. Patients and clients are now able to access important ongoing social work services closer to home.

## Number of nurses hired on the rise

For the fourth year, IH increased the number of new graduate nurses hired. Approximately 900 new grad nurses have been onboarded since 2023. In the Thompson Nicola Region, 83 graduates have been hired in the past year including 19 licensed practical nurses and 64 registered nurses.



# Physician Recruitment

IH-wide, 2020-2025



**16%**  
INCREASE

in full-time  
equivalent positions



**29%**  
INCREASE

in physician contracts

Thompson Nicola top  
areas of recruitment

- Hospitalists
- Family Practice
- Emergency  
Medicine
- Pathology
- Psychiatry

## Community partnerships bring more hospitalists to Royal Inland Hospital

Since April 2025, Royal Inland Hospital has seven signed offer letters for new hospitalists, helping to strengthen the care team for admitted patients. Interior Health worked closely with the RIH Foundation and Venture Kamloops to facilitate site visits so that new physicians were well-connected with the hospital and the community.



## Rural and remote communities welcome Return-Of-Service family doctors

Barriere welcomed Dr. Mark Akangoziri, a family physician who joined the community in 2025 through a three-year return-of-service (ROS) agreement, part of the Practice Ready Assessment BC physician program. Interior Health continues to recruit physicians to rural communities such as Lillooet, Logan Lake, and Ashcroft through this program and the International Medical Graduate initiative, and work with local partners to support retention. [Read the North Thompson Star/Journal article.](#)



# Investments advance health care in the region

## Capital and Equipment 2021-2025

**\$490.6**  
million

RIH Patient Care Tower  
(in-progress)

**\$385.8**  
million

Kamloops Cancer Centre (RIH)  
(in-progress)

**\$9.1**  
million

Kamloops Operating Room  
Equipment (in-progress)

**\$6.4**  
million

Merritt Emergency Department  
Renovation – 2021

**\$4.7**  
million

Kamloops North Shore Urgent  
Primary Care Centre – 2024

**\$3**  
million

Lytton Primary Care  
Centre – 2023

## Transforming Care: Interior Health's Major Investments Strengthen Services in Thompson Nicola

Interior Health has integrated significant health-care investments in the Thompson Nicola Region over the past five years, including capital and operational investments including:

- [Royal Inland Hospital Phil & Jennie Gaglardi Tower](#) (\$490.6 million)
- Kamloops North Shore Urgent and Primary Care Centre (\$4.7 million)
- Building capacity in and expanding mental health and substance use services and programs (\$28.7 million)
- Surgical investments (\$36.1 million)

## Expanding Cancer Care

In partnership with BC Cancer, Interior Health is expanding cancer care in Kamloops through a new \$386-million cancer centre and upgrades to existing oncology services at Royal Inland Hospital. Once open, the new centre is expected to provide radiation treatment for over 1,000 patients in its first year. It will also provide an additional MRI machine for cancer detection and diagnosis. [Visit engageih.ca](https://www.engageih.ca) to [follow the development process](#).

## Imaging upgrades improve care in Lillooet, Clearwater

Hospitals in Lillooet and Clearwater both received upgrades to the X-ray system this year, which improves patient care by producing faster and more high-quality images for diagnostic. Barriere will welcome upgrade to its system in early 2026.

## Accessibility improvements support patients in Merritt

Interior Health is expanding eight patient washrooms to accommodate lifts and provide space for staff to assist patients safely and comfortably. Four washrooms are currently under construction.

## Patient communication technology updated in Lillooet

Communication between patients/residents and health-care team in the Lillooet hospital and long-term care home will improve thanks to new nurse call systems in patient rooms.

## Operational Investments 2021 – 2025

- Long-Term Care (non capital) – 2022-2025: \$9.3 million
- Thompson Rural Primary Care Network – 2024-2025: \$5.2 million
- Seniors Care – 2021-2025: \$7.6 million
- Ashcroft Urgent and Primary Care Centre – 2023: \$3.5 million