

Interior Health in your region



West Kootenay- Boundary

Regional Impacts



3,258+

IH Staff



4

Hospitals



22

Health Care
Facilities



7

IH Long Term
Care Facilities



88,966

Total
Population

Program and service highlights

Mental health screening tool launched in Nelson

In August 2025, the Province of B.C. and the Nelson Police Department launched HealthIM, a digital public-safety tool designed to improve officer response to people in crisis. Kootenay Lake Hospital is the first Interior Health site to launch HealthIM, representing a positive step forward in patient-centred care. [Read the full article.](#)

KBRH Foundation helps keep expectant families closer to home

A new Tier 3 Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital (KBRH), made possible by \$745,000 in additional Foundation-funded equipment and the addition of specialized NICU healthcare workers by Interior Health, means KBRH has the capacity to support deliveries and care for babies born after 34 weeks, as well urgent acute care for babies born even earlier with moderate risk. [Read the full article.](#)

Staff at Kootenay Lake Hospital praise campaign to support upgrades to chemotherapy clinic

Interior Health is praising the Kootenay Lake Hospital Foundation's ongoing efforts to support oncology renovations through this year's Breath of Spring campaign. The campaign is a yearly effort by the Kootenay Lake Hospital Foundation to support health care initiatives in Nelson and the surrounding area. This year, the campaign is focused on supporting renovations for the Chemotherapy/IV Infusion Clinic at the hospital. This includes purchasing essential medical equipment, specialized treatment chairs and other key furnishings. [Read the full article.](#)

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%

Selkirk College Practical Nursing Program graduates first cohort

Licensed practical nurses graduating from Selkirk College's new program are working to support important health-care needs in the region. The program addresses nursing shortages and improves access to health care that's relevant to rural communities. [Read the full article.](#)

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 in medicine, nursing, midwifery, pharmacy, cardiology technology and respiratory therapy. [Read the full article.](#)

IH attracting new nursing grads to the Kootenay Boundary Region

In the West Kootenay-Boundary, 48 nursing graduates have been hired in the past year including 15 licensed practical nurses and 33 registered nurses. This is the fourth year in a row IH has increased the numbers of new graduate nurses hired throughout the entire IH region. Approximately 900 new grad nurses have been onboarded since 2023.



Physician Recruitment

IH-wide, 2020-2025



16%
INCREASE

in full-time
equivalent positions



26%
INCREASE

in physician contracts

West Kootenay -
Boundary top areas of
recruitment

- Family Practice
- Emergency
Medicine (FP-EM)
- Surgical (General
Surgeon, Ortho)
- Nephrology

Recruitment success for Boundary Hospital reopens inpatient beds

Boundary Hospital (BDH) in Grand Forks welcomes one new physician, seven registered nurses (RNs) and four licensed practical nurses (LPNs), all contributing to a gradual increase in reopening inpatient bed services at BDH.



Village of Fruitvale to welcome new family doctor

Residents in Fruitvale and nearby communities will have more access to primary care, provided by a new family physician arriving to the community in December 2025.



Joint partnership adds new kidney specialist to KBRH

Collaboration between Interior Health and Kootenay Boundary Physicians Association is bringing a new nephrologist, who specializes in diagnosing and treating conditions related to kidneys, to KBRH starting fall 2025.



Investments advance health care in the region

Capital and Equipment 2021-2025

\$35.9
million

Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital
(KBRH) MRI addition

\$32.8
million

KBRH Pharmacy & Ambulatory Care

\$20.6
million

Nelson Community Health Campus

\$19
million

KBRH Emergency Department

\$8
million

CT Scanners -
KBRH and Kootenay Lake Hospital

\$1.1
million

Castlegar District Hospital UPCC

Nelson celebrates Health Campus opening

People in Nelson now have convenient access to a centralized health services location, including a 75-bed long-term care home and a community centre offering integrated services like public health, mental health, and chronic disease management with the opening of the Nelson Community Health Campus in September.

[Read the news release.](#)

New MRI supports patients in Kootenay Boundary

A new MRI suite at Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital will provide faster, more accurate scans close to home. Patients will benefit from reduced wait times, improved access for complex and vulnerable cases, and fewer transfers. Construction is planned to start in summer 2026 and be ready for patients by summer 2028.

CT Scanner for KBRH brings new capabilities

Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital is replacing its CT scanner with a new, advanced model that will offer cardiac imaging, use artificial intelligence, and reduce radiation exposure. The current scanner, installed in 2012, will be retired as part of this upgrade. Renovations to the medical imaging department will also bring the space up to modern safety and ergonomic standards, supporting improved care for patients.

New Glass Solarium update improves resident experience at Poplar Ridge Pavilion

Long-term care residents at Poplar Ridge Pavilion, part of Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital, will have improved comfort and safety with the installation of a new glass solarium in the dining room to replace the original, installed in 1972.

Operational Investments 2021 – 2025

- Rural Retention Program: \$14.5 million
- Kootenay Boundary Primary Care Network: \$11 million
- Mental Health and Substance Use Services and Resources: \$7.7 million
- Surgical capacity investments: \$5.8 million
- Acute Bed Expansion: \$2.9 million