



Interior Health

# MOVING TO BC

FAQ FOR RNS, LPNS, AND RPNs

## BRITISH COLUMBIA IS CALLING

Are you a student nurse or recent graduate in Canada? Come experience the exceptional and diverse nursing opportunities within Interior Health. Not only are there opportunities to build your career, but endless opportunities to create your ideal lifestyle.



COMPETITIVE  
SALARIES



RELOCATION  
ASSISTANCE



OUTDOOR  
LIFESTYLE



RURAL  
LIVING



URBAN  
LIVING



WORK - LIFE  
BALANCE

### WHAT ARE HEALTH AUTHORITIES?

In BC, health authorities govern, plan, and deliver healthcare services within their geographic areas. They are responsible for identifying population health needs, planning appropriate programs and services, ensuring programs and services are properly funded and managed, and meeting performance objectives. The five regional health authorities in BC are Interior Health (IH), Fraser Health, Island Health, Vancouver Coastal Health, and Northern Health.



### WHERE IS INTERIOR HEALTH LOCATED?

Interior Health is located in the Southern Interior of British Columbia. IH serves a large geographic area covering almost 216,000 square kilometers and includes larger cities as well as a multitude of more rural and remote communities. The health authority is split into four areas which include Thompson Cariboo Shuswap, Okanagan, Kootenay Boundary, and East Kootenay.

A map and more information can be found [here](#).

### AS A NON-BC STUDENT, CAN I COMPLETE MY CO-OP / STUDENT PLACEMENT WITHIN BC?

Yes! IH absolutely considers students from all across Canada. IH looks at the quality of the candidates against the needs that we have and we focus on co-op and student placements. Speak with your school about getting placed at Interior Health.



**As a nursing student, you can work as a Health Care Assistant after completion of the first year of the nursing program!**

For more information, visit [BC Care Aide & Community - Nursing Student \(CACHWR.bc.ca\)](http://BC Care Aide & Community - Nursing Student (CACHWR.bc.ca)).

Nursing students can work as an ESN after completing the second year of the nursing program. For more information, visit [Employed Student Nurses \(BCCNM.ca\)](http://Employed Student Nurses (BCCNM.ca)).

### DOES INTERIOR HEALTH OFFER RELOCATION ASSISTANCE?

We want to make it easy for you. Permanent and temporary placements may be eligible for financial relocation assistance to help you and your family with the move. It is a program to facilitate recruitment of qualified candidates to external permanent and temporary vacancies. Details should be discussed with the hiring manager or clinical recruitment specialist prior to accepting the offer and any relocation provided will require a 24-month return of service. Casual hires are not eligible for this program.

### I SAW A JOB POSTING THAT INCLUDED RURAL RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION PROGRAM UNDER INCENTIVES? WHAT IS IT?

The IH Rural Recruitment and Retention Program is a lump sum of \$10,000 on the day of hire and is applicable to RNs who make an employment commitment to hard to fill permanent vacancies located in the interior of British Columbia. This incentive is offered to RNs in rural and remote communities. Details should be discussed with the hiring manager or recruiter prior to accepting the offer.

### WHAT IS THE CANADA STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM?

The Government of Canada offers Canada Student Loan forgiveness to eligible family doctors, residents in family medicine, nurse practitioners, and nurses who work in under-served rural or remote communities that lack the primary health care they need. This change will help more Canadians get the health care they deserve.

For more information, visit [Canada Student Loan Forgiveness Eligibility](#).

If you are a nurse or nurse practitioner and you qualify, you could receive up to \$20,000 in Canada Student Loan forgiveness over a maximum of five years (\$4,000 per year).

### WHAT IS BC'S WAGE COMPARED TO MY HOME PROVINCE?

For registered nurses, [JobBank.gc.ca](#) has a [chart](#) that compares provincial registered nurses prevailing wage ranges in Canada. The median wage per hour in BC is \$41 per hour according to [JobBank.gc.ca](#).

### DO OUT OF PROVINCE NURSES HAVE TO BE REGISTERED WITH THE BC COLLEGE OF NURSES AND MIDWIVES?

Yes, in order to work in BC, you must have provisional or practicing registration with the B.C. College of Nurses and Midwives (BCCNM) prior to beginning employment.

#### More Information

[RN Nurse from Another Canadian Province or Territory \(BCCNM.ca\)](#)

[LPN Nurse from Another Canadian Province or Territory \(BCCNM.ca\)](#)

[RPN Canadian Applicant \(BCCNM.ca\)](#)



You can apply for a position before you have your license! You just need your license before you start work, so don't delay your application process.

### HOW CAN I FIND HOUSING / ACCOMMODATIONS?

Kijiji, Facebook Marketplace, and Rentfaster.ca are good places to start your search for rental properties. However, [Castanet](#) is a local news site that covers the Okanagan and Kamloops. Castanet does have a [classified section](#) that lists real estate and rentals.

### WHAT TYPE OF ACTIVITIES CAN I DO OUTSIDE OF WORK?

BC has a lot to offer. From mountains and lakes to natural hot springs and vineyards, BC has it all. [HelloBC.com](#) is dedicated to telling stories of what is possible in BC. Find maps, travel ideas, curated travel itineraries, and much more.

### ARE THERE ANY ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE?

[Welcome BC](#) by the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training has many valuable resources, such as a [Newcomer's Guide](#), for people looking to relocate to BC. To connect directly with an Interior Health Clinical Recruitment Specialist, please email [IHRNRecruitment@InteriorHealth.ca](mailto:IHRNRecruitment@InteriorHealth.ca).