

ABORIGINAL HEALTH

Sacred Spaces and Gathering Places

IN NORTHERN HEALTH

JUNE 2016



© Credit: DepositPhotos.com ID 31705477



northern health
the northern way of caring

Introduction

This booklet is for First Nations and Aboriginal people and their families who are accessing Northern Health services. It lists the spaces available in Northern Health buildings and grounds for family and community members to gather. It provides contact information for local Aboriginal Patient Liaisons and a regional Spiritual Health Manager.

Northern Health recognizes the importance for many First Nations and Aboriginal people to gather around a loved one in the hospital or a long-term care home. We provide safe and comfortable spaces to gather within the functional limits of each location. We also try to make spaces available for spiritual and cultural healing practices.

Please speak with an **Aboriginal Patient Liaison, nurse or other care provider** if you have any questions or would like to request access to a space.

Aboriginal Patient Liaisons

Aboriginal Patient Liaisons (APLs) work to ensure that First Nations and Aboriginal people have access to high quality, culturally appropriate care. They are usually available from 8:30 - 4:30 Monday to Friday. Please note, there are ten APLs across the north, and not all locations have an APL.

Spiritual Health Manager

The Spiritual Health Manager is located in Prince George and can help facilitate local spiritual supports across the north within diverse belief systems. Available Tuesday and Thursday 10:00 - 4:00, Wednesday 10:00 - 12:00, and by appointment. 24/7 emergency access is available by calling the UHNBC switchboard 250-565-2000 or 1-800-663-7867.

Lauren Aldred
250-565-2525
lauren.aldred@northernhealth.ca

Locations in the Northeast

SOUTH PEACE

Chetwynd Hospital and Health Centre

- A healing garden with seating is located on the southwest side.
- A small family room (capacity 6-8) with a sink, coffee maker and fridge.
- A teleconference room (capacity 50 people).
- A larger room with a bed and deck for families who's loved one is passing.
- The northeast side of the hospital has a wood carving outdoors that can be used as a smudging site.
- An indoor space can be requested for smudging.
- The morgue can be available upon the death of a loved one and it can be used to hold prayers (capacity 6-10). It has a wall compass that identifies the direction for prayer purposes.
- The covered parking area can be used for prayers.
- Families can bring in food.

**SORRY, NO
IMAGE
AVAILABLE**

Aboriginal Patient Liaison

Vacant
250-788-7300

© Credit: DepositPhotos.com ID 76928763

Dawson Creek and District Hospital

- The palliative room is a small private room with a bed.
- The family room (capacity 10).
- A small kitchen with a small fridge is available down the hall from the family room. Families can bring in food.
- Space can be requested for smudging.

**SORRY, NO
IMAGE
AVAILABLE**

Aboriginal Patient Liaison

Vacant
250-782-8501



Credit: Teepees near Fort St. John (K. Mitchell-Foster)

NORTH PEACE

Fort Nelson Hospital

- The multilevel care unit common area (capacity 35).
- The lounge areas.
- The picnic area outside has a wood burning fire pit/barbecue and picnic tables and is wheel chair accessible.
- A volunteer often comes and cooks bannock for the Elders in multilevel care.

Fort St John Hospital and Peace Villa

- A multi-faith sacred space is a small room on the inpatient unit (capacity 6) that features lazy boy chairs and pictures of northern lights on the walls. This room can be requested and used for smudging.
- A larger room close to the Peace Villa (capacity 15). This room can be requested and used for smudging.
- The morgue (capacity 2-4) has a viewing room that is available for ceremonies such as prayers.



Aboriginal Patient Liaison for both Fort Nelson and Fort St. John:

Brittany Brinkworth

250-261-7418

brittany.brinkworth@northernhealth.ca

Locations in the Northern Interior

BURNS LAKE

Lakes District Hospital and Health Centre

- A multi-faith sacred space is located on Level 2 adjacent to a large lobby area (capacity 20). The sacred space can be used for smudging.
- A healing garden is located on Level 1 outside the main entrance.
- The morgue is designed for family to attend upon the death of a loved one.
- The emergency department has a small family gathering space in the event of a crisis.
- Space can be requested for smudging - speak with the Aboriginal Patient Liaison.



Aboriginal Patient Liaison

Ken Solonas

250-692-2474

ken.solonas@northernhealth.ca

FORT ST JAMES

Stuart Lake Hospital

- The palliative care room has a large family room attached and is equipped with a small fridge and microwave. This family room accommodates overnight stays for up to 2-3 family members.
- A patient fridge is available for families.

MACKENZIE

Mackenzie and District Hospital and Health Centre

- A palliative room is larger and has a couch to accommodate extra people.
- A group room is available to accommodate larger gatherings and patients can often be moved into this room.

MCBRIDE

McBride and District Hospital

- An inter-faith sacred space (capacity 8-10) has tables, chairs and a small couch and can be accessed for a variety of spiritual needs including counseling or smudging.
- The palliative care room (capacity 20-30) contains a fridge, TV, sink, and access to a microwave.
- The education room (capacity 30).
- Refreshments provided on request. Families can bring in food.
- A grieving package is available with information on what to expect and prepare for if a loved one is dying.
- Space can be requested for smudging.



PRINCE GEORGE

University Hospital of Northern BC

- A multi-faith sacred space used for worship services and individual contemplation and prayer (capacity 18) has an Indigenous carving.
- The sacred space can be requested and used for smudging and drumming.
- Meeting rooms (capacity 6- 40).
- Family rooms (capacity 6-10).
- A small sleeping room outside the Intensive Care Unit.
- The waiting area outside the Intensive Care Unit.
- A morgue with a large viewing room attached.



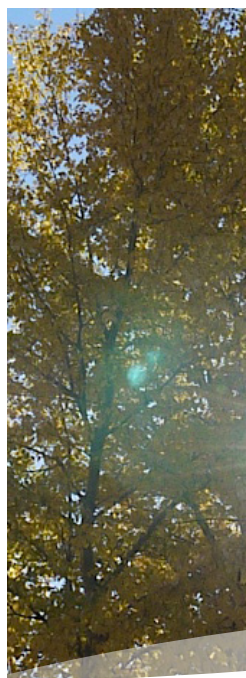
Aboriginal Patient Liaison

Patricia Prince
250-565-2364
patricia.prince@northernhealth.ca



Spiritual Health Manager

Lauren Aldred
250-565-2525
lauren.albred@northernhealth.ca



BC Cancer Agency Centre for the North

- An inter-faith sacred space (capacity approximately 15).
- An outdoor cultural-smudging pavilion.
- A healing garden and rooftop garden.



Aboriginal Cancer Care Coordinator

Dana Marshall

250-645-7330 or toll free 1-855-775-7300

dana.marshall@bccancer.bc.ca

Available part-time at this facility to assist patients and families from Aboriginal communities with emotional and practical concerns.



QUESNEL

GR Baker Memorial Hospital

- A multi-faith sacred space is available 24/7 on floor 2R for patients and families (seating for 10, more available if needed). This room overlooks the river and features local artwork. It has comfortable seating, as well as a dining table and chairs.
- A coffee pot, kettle, microwave and fridge are available for use. Families are welcome to bring in food and refreshments while using the space.
- Space can be requested for smudging.



Aboriginal Patient Liaison

Lyndsey Rhea
250-985-5812
lyndsey.rhea@northernhealth.ca

VANDERHOOF

St. John Hospital

- The palliative care room (capacity 5).
- The solarium (capacity 30).
- The hospital board room (capacity 20).
- The quiet room beside the Emergency Department (capacity 5).
- A patient kitchen area can be used by friends and family. On request, the kitchen will provide coffee and tea.



Locations in the Northwest

TERRACE

Mills Memorial Hospital

Requests can be made at reception or from a nurse for access to:

- The education room (capacity 40).
- Waiting room (capacity 10).
- Main lobby (capacity 30).
- Families can bring in food and refreshments.



Aboriginal Patient Liaison for Terrace and telephone support to Kitimat

Lloyd McDames

250-638-4085

lloyd.mcdames@northernhealth.ca

KITIMAT

Kitimat General Hospital

- A large meeting room with kitchen (capacity 133).
- Planning in collaboration with Haisla Nation is underway for more culturally appropriate decor for the space.

HAIDA GWAI - SANDSPIT, SKIDEGATE, AND QUEEN CHARLOTTE

Queen Charlotte General Hospital

Staff try to accommodate families as best they can despite severely limited space.

- Room 200 has a couch and table.
- Refreshments are provided as needed or upon request.
- Families can line hallways and self-regulate their numbers visiting in patient rooms.

A new hospital is scheduled to open in 2016 and will have:

- A “Storage House” designed to resemble a longhouse. It will have refrigeration in the back for body storage and room for families to gather. The space can be used for smudging.
- A larger palliative care room.
- A room beside the palliative care room for visitors that has a fridge, extra chairs, and access to an outside deck.

HAIDA GWAI - MASSET

Northern Haida Gwaii Hospital and Health Centre

- The main foyer (capacity 20-50).
- The staff lounge provides more comfortable seating and privacy. It has coffee, ice and water machines.
- The morgue is available for ceremonies (capacity 5-7) such as washing and prayers. Washing supplies are provided upon request. Gathering outside the morgue for prayers is an option.
- The long-term care lounge. A coffee cart is provided as needed.
- Space can be requested for family-initiated cultural or spiritual activities.

PRINCE RUPERT

Prince Rupert Regional Hospital

On request the Aboriginal Patient Liaison can arrange access to:

- The ambulatory day care room (capacity 40-60) for tribal business, spiritual purposes, large families to gather, and nurturing family meals.
- The cafeteria.
- Upon request a microwave, tables and chairs are provided. Garbage bags are provided for family's own clean-up.



Aboriginal Patient Liaison

Mary Wesley
250-624-2171
mary.wesley@northernhealth.ca

HAZELTON

Wrinch Memorial Hospital

Upon request the Aboriginal Patient Liaison can arrange for families to gather in:

- The sacred space (capacity 12-15).
- The family room (capacity 25-30).
- Space can be requested for smudging Monday-Friday 8:30-4:30.



Aboriginal Patient Liaison

Angie Combs
250-842-4666
angie.combs@northernhealth.ca

SMITHERS

Bulkley Valley District Hospital

- The cafeteria (capacity 40-50) and courtyard (capacity 50-100) are available at any time.
- Families can bring in food and refreshments.
- The courtyard can be used for smudging. Unfortunately, indoor space cannot be used for smudging due to a highly sensitive smoke detection system.

Requests can be made with the Aboriginal Patient Liaison or a nurse for access to:

- Single rooms in the inpatient area (capacity 15-20).
- The multipurpose quiet room beside the ER (capacity 4-6).



Aboriginal Patient Liaison

Lillian Lewis
250-847-5211
lillian.lewis@northernhealth.ca
lillianr8lewis@msn.com





northern health

the northern way of caring

© 2016 Northern Health. This publication may be reproduced for non-commercial use, in full or in part, without permission provided the source is fully acknowledged.

Recommended citation: Aboriginal Health. (2016). *Sacred spaces and gathering places in Northern Health*. Prince George, BC: Northern Health.

This document is available online at:
www.northernhealth.ca/yourhealth/AboriginalHealth

Aboriginal Health, Suite 600 - 299 Victoria Street, Prince George, BC V2L 5B8
T 250-649-7226 • F 250-565-2640 • aboriginal.health@northernhealth.ca