



MEDIA RELEASE – FOR RELEASE August 20, 2024

The North Central Local Government Association, Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, City of Prince George, and Regional District of Fraser-Fort George to Co-host the 2024 Mental Health and Addictions Symposium: A Pathway Forward

Prince George, BC - The North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA), in partnership with the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, the City of Prince George and the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George is excited to announce the *2024 Mental Health and Addictions Symposium: A Pathway Forward*. The Symposium will take place on November 13 and 14, 2024, at the Prince George Conference and Civic Centre.

This landmark Symposium will unite representatives from multiple agencies and governments to engage in comprehensive discussions and collaborative efforts. Recognizing the need to address the mental health and addictions crisis impacting communities throughout Central and Northern BC, the event aims to provide a dynamic platform for knowledge exchange and the leveraging of collective resources. The primary objective is to accelerate the advancement of collaborative actions and solutions.

Attendees will benefit from opportunities for information-sharing and coordination, fostering partnerships, and advancing joint advocacy and policy development. These efforts are designed to improve services and outcomes for those affected by mental health and addictions and their related intersections.

Chief Logan, on behalf of Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, stated, "Mental health and addictions are the biggest challenges impacting communities across the country today. We need to come together in the best interest of our neighbours, friends, and family to work collaboratively on solutions that enhance the quality of life for those individuals and families facing these challenges. We look forward to welcoming attendees to our traditional territory for the first Mental Health and Addictions Symposium."

City of Prince George Mayor Simon Yu added, "The Mental Health and Addictions Symposium will benefit individuals, professionals, agencies, and communities by fostering an informed, connected, and supportive environment for mental health and addiction dialogue and initiatives. We are proud to host this event here in November and look forward to welcoming attendees from throughout central and northern BC."

Chair Lara Beckett of the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George emphasized, "Acknowledging the profound impact of mental health and substance use challenges on individuals, families, and communities in our region, the Symposium will foster information-sharing and encourage collaboration between those working to advance positive solutions and improve the delivery of mental health and addictions services across Central and Northern BC."



NCLGA President Judy Greenaway highlighted the importance of the Symposium, stating, “The 2024 Mental Health and Addictions Symposium represents a crucial step forward in addressing the complex challenges our communities face. By bringing together diverse stakeholders, we can create innovative solutions and build a stronger support system for individuals affected by mental health and addictions. Our collective efforts at this Symposium will pave the way for meaningful change and better outcomes for everyone in our region.”

Event Details:

- **Location:** Prince George Conference and Civic Centre, 808 Canada Games Way, Prince George, BC V2L 5L1
- **Dates and Times:** November 13, 9am-5pm, November 14, 9am-3pm

For further event details, registration and sponsorship information please visit: [2024 Mental Health and Addictions Symposium \(nclga.ca\)](https://www.nclga.ca/2024-Mental-Health-and-Addictions-Symposium)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

City of Prince George:

Prince George, known as the "Northern Capital" of British Columbia, serves as a central hub for commerce, education, healthcare, and culture in Northern BC, with a population of approximately 74,000. The city is committed to fostering growth, sustainability, and a high quality of life for its residents. Its involvement in hosting the 2024 Mental Health and Addictions Symposium reflects the city's dedication to addressing critical health issues and supporting community well-being.

Lheidli T'enneh First Nation:

The Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, whose traditional territory includes the confluence of the Fraser and Nechako Rivers in what is now Prince George, plays a vital role in the cultural and historical fabric of the region. The Nation is committed to preserving its heritage while fostering economic and social development for its members. Their collaboration in the 2024 Mental Health and Addictions Symposium underscores their dedication to improving health outcomes for all communities within their territory.

Regional District of Fraser-Fort George:

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George, located in central British Columbia, encompasses its four member municipalities (City of Prince George, Villages of McBride and Valemount, and District of Mackenzie) and surrounding rural communities. Known for its stunning natural landscapes and rich resources, the RDFFG supports a robust economy driven by forestry, agriculture, mining, and tourism. Committed to sustainable development, RDFFG provides essential services such as 9-1-1, emergency management, waste management, regional planning and community recreation. Their participation in the 2024 Mental Health and Addictions



Symposium highlights their commitment to enhancing quality of life and fostering a strong sense of community.

NCLGA:

Established in 1955, the North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA) is the advocacy body for local government officials in North Central British Columbia. Spanning from 100 Mile House to the Yukon border and from Haida Gwaii to Alberta, the association represents over 240 elected officials across 42 local governments. The NCLGA is dedicated to addressing the unique challenges and opportunities in the region, including those related to mental health and addictions, as highlighted by the upcoming 2024 Symposium.

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