



MEDIA RELEASE – FOR RELEASE October 16, 2024

The 2024 Mental Health and Addictions Symposium Co-hosts announce Program and Confirmed Speakers

Prince George, BC – The North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA), the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, the City of Prince George and the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George are co-hosting the 2024 Mental Health and Addictions Symposium: A Pathway Forward, and are pleased to announce the program and speaker lineup. The Symposium will take place on November 13 and 14, 2024, at the Prince George Conference and Civic Centre.

The Symposium will feature informative presentations, engaging plenary panel addresses, and six concurrent sessions, allowing participants to engage with community leaders from the mental health and addictions resource and service sector, alongside representatives and elected officials from local and Indigenous governments.

Presenters include those from the mental health and addictions sector and other experts providing valuable insights and perspectives. Confirmed speakers include:

- Keynote Speaker: Corey Hirsch, former NHL goaltender, coach and an Olympic Games silver medalist
- Dr. Barbara Kane, Head of the Psychiatry Department, University Hospital of Northern British Columbia
- Janine Stevenson and Andrea Durban, Community Action Initiative
- Art Reynolds, BC Construction Safety Alliance and Ian Robb, Chair of the Alberta Building Trades
- Dr. Paul Farnan, Clinical Associate Professor, University of British Columbia
- Mike Skrypnek and Andrea Paquette, Stigma-Free Mental Health Society
- Acasia Preston, Raelene Hodgson, and Colleen Purcka, Foundry BC
- Laura Honey and Julia Hintermeister, Saplings Mental Health, and many more.

The Symposium will also feature tradeshow booths, providing opportunities for resource and service agencies to further share resources, foster networking opportunities, and connect in-person with community leaders and elected officials. Please email Heidi Martel (hmartel@nclga.ca) for information on tradeshow booths.

The signing of the Mental Health and Addictions Accord will be a key outcome of the Symposium, as signatories commit to the stated principles and actions to promote mental well-being and combat substance misuse within our communities.

NCLGA President Judy Greenaway highlighted the importance of the Symposium, stating, *“Featuring expert voices and community leaders in mental health and addictions services, the Symposium’s program promises opportunity for impactful discussions and insightful dialogue for*



all participants. Symposium attendees will benefit from opportunities for information-sharing and coordination, fostering partnerships, and advancing joint advocacy and policy development."

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, tradeshow booth, and sponsorship information please visit: [2024 Mental Health and Addictions Symposium \(nclga.ca\)](https://nclga.ca) or email admin@nclga.ca

Please [register here](#).

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 the 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.

MEDIA CONTACTS

NCLGA:

Terry Robert, Executive Director

Email: trobert@nclga.ca

Website: www.nclga.ca

Lheidli T'enneh First Nation:

Todd Corrigall, External Affairs Advisor

Mobile: 250-613-1633

Email: todd@centralstrategies.ca

Website: www.lheidli.ca

City of Prince George:

Claire Thwaites, Senior Communications Advisor

Mobile: 778-349-1386

Email: media@princegeorge.ca

Website: www.princegeorge.ca

Regional District of Fraser-Fort George:

Hilary Erasmus, Manager of Communications and Culture

Mobile: 778-349-8475

Email: hilary.erasmus@rdffg.bc.ca

Website: www.rdffg.ca