



## British Columbia Rural Health Network

### March 2019 Newsletter

Greetings from the snowy Tulameen Valley. As we head into March, there are several interesting and important items to share with you, including our Member of the Month article featuring Johanna Trimble, our first "Individual" member.

The BCRHN Interim Board of Directors met on Wednesday, February 13th. Items on the agenda included the approval of a letter to Minister Dix, an update on the Rural Evidence Review project, and the setting of the date for our first Annual General Meeting. Board members also gave updates on membership and various conferences and workshops.

The BCRHN has sent a letter to Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, providing an overview of our organization's goals and an update on our recent activities. The purpose of the letter was to congratulate Minister Dix on raising the profile of rural health issues and to update him on the work of our Network. As the letter states, we "believe our Network is well positioned to work together with [the Minister] to advance BC's rural health agenda and improve population health outcomes for all residents of the province." We look forward to receiving a reply from the Minister and will share further developments as they come available.

The Rural Evidence Review (RER) project has been surveying rural residents from across the province on their experiences and priorities accessing healthcare, and received close to 800 surveys. Jude Kornelsen is leading this initiative and is now working with UBC to get ethics approval for further research. The BCRHN is excited to be a part of this project as it promises to support strategies for recruitment and retention of healthcare providers in rural BC. An article on the RER project is in the February issue of the Ubyyssey online news source: <https://www.ubyssey.ca/science/rural-health-review/>

Our Network continues to grow with two new members joining in February. Johanna Trimble, our first "Individual" member, joins us from the Sunshine Coast and the Castlegar & District Hospital Foundation joins us from that community. If you know of an organization or individual who would be interested in joining the BCRHN, please provide contact information to Ed Staples at [edwardstaples8@gmail.com](mailto:edwardstaples8@gmail.com).

The first Annual General Meeting of the BCRHN will be held in Kelowna on May 11, beginning at 1:00 pm. Detailed information on agenda and location will be provided soon. In advance of the AGM, the Board is working to have our organization become a registered BC society.

Members of the BCRHN attended the Provincial Healthcare Partners Retreat held in Vancouver, January 27 - 29. The event was co-sponsored and organized by the Rural Coordination Centre of BC, Doctors of BC, and the BC Ministry of Health. The purpose of the gathering was to "engage in learning about primary health care re-design and transformation, with a focus on rural and remote communities." Participants had several takeaways including recognition that partnership is key to the transformation process; developing relationships between policy makers, health administrators, health providers, community organizations, and academic institutions is the most effective way to make change happen. The BCRHN was an active participant in this event and there are plans to have our Network involved in follow-up discussions.

Please visit the BCRHN website and pages on Facebook and Twitter. They are updated frequently and provide members with a way to stay informed and get involved. If you have something you would like to see added to our online sites, please contact Nienke Klaver at [tulameennienke@gmail.com](mailto:tulameennienke@gmail.com).

website: [www.bcrhn.ca](http://www.bcrhn.ca)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/bcruralhealthnetwork](http://www.facebook.com/bcruralhealthnetwork)

Twitter: [twitter.com/bcrhnetwork](http://twitter.com/bcrhnetwork)

To your health,

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