

Sea to Sky Division of Family Practice Annual Report 2023-2024

Letter from the Co-Chairs

Dr. Lawrence Klein (Squamish)

Dr. Danielle Patterson (Whistler)

The 2023-2024 fiscal year saw much change in our two communities, as we delved back in to “normal” operating procedures after 3 years of pandemic restrictions. We are grateful for the success of the provincial vaccination program, and the tireless work of healthcare providers for helping us get to a safer place for all.

The Sea to Sky Division Board of Directors said thank you to Dr. Matt Lissett for his time on the Board and welcomed Dr. Olivia Bayley as a Director. Guided by the strategic plan completed during the 2022-2023 year, we entered 2023 with renewed energy to continue working towards a viable, sustainable community of practice for the Sea to Sky. Whistler 360, and the clinic at Under One Roof are both thriving and we continue to advocate to support their success.

The new fiscal year started on a sad note with the loss of long-time Whistler physician Dr. Bruce Mohr. Bruce was a dedicated physician who spent many years on and was a founding member of the Board of the Sea to Sky Division of Family Practice and the Squamish General Hospital Facility Engagement Initiative. Bruce’s legacy continues through the [UBC Memorial Fund](#), supporting awards for M.D. students in emergency medicine at UBC. And, after almost 8 years at the Division, we extended good wishes to our Events & Administration Coordinator Kari Chambers, who accepted an exciting new role at Doctors of BC! Kari is now a Project Coordinator on the Indigenous-Specific Anti-Racism and Cultural Safety team at DOBC, and can still be seen from time to time supporting the odd Division or MSA event.

In the fall of 2023, we held the 2nd Annual Sea to Sky RCME Retreat in Whistler and had a fantastic turnout from area physicians as well as impactful discussions with our local specialists.

The PCN planning process maintained momentum throughout this year, developing strong partnerships with community, Ministry, and Health Authority colleagues and working together under a new PCN governance model that rolled out in October, 2023. The work and relationship-building were bolstered by the data we were able to obtain from a variety of sources on the current state of health in the Sea to Sky.

Looking ahead to 2024-2025, we are anticipating a continued uptick in attachment rates as more physicians join the Provincial Attachment Registry, Longitudinal payment model, and take advantage of panel management and clean-up support provided by PSP. We are also looking forward to the implementation phase of our PCN planning, which will bring additional resources to our medical community.

As a Division, we also marked our 10th Anniversary this year since inception! Our Board and staff look forward to continuing to serve as a resource and advocate for all of you who work so tirelessly to support patients through your family practices. We thank you for making this such an amazing community of practitioners!

With gratitude,

Dr. Lawrence Klein
Board Co-Chair

Dr. Danielle Patterson
Board Co-Chair

Your Sea to Sky Division

Annual Report

April 1, 2023-March 31, 2024

PCN Update

Reflecting on the year that was, the planning process for the Primary Care Networks (PCNs) in the Sea to Sky region during 2023-2024 was shaped by 3 key milestones:

1. Data Analysis and Needs Assessments

Access to demographic data from the Ministry of Health provided insight into community health and care needs, including attachment rates and health indicators in Squamish and Whistler. Division members and partners provided feedback via consultation and through surveys to identify priority needs to be addressed within the PCN Service Plan.

1. Partnerships

The PCN Steering Committee Co-Chairs and members contributed to the creation of a Service Plan that aligned with funding parameters and was supported by all. After multiple revisions and many hours of joint planning, an endorsed proposal was submitted to the Ministry of Health for approval in August 2023.

3. New Governance Model

The third major milestone was the Ministry of Health's release of a PCN Governance Framework in October 2023. Fortunately, the timing aligned with Sea to Sky's planning, allowing the region to move forward with implementation under clear governance guidelines, unlike other PCNs that had to adjust their structures mid-plan.

Launch of Longitudinal Family Physician Payment Model

In response to the urgent need to retain and attract family physicians, the Longitudinal Family Physician (LFP) Payment Model was introduced in British Columbia. This new model represents a significant shift in both physician compensation and healthcare delivery, aiming

to improve patient access to continuous, community-based family medicine. The transition is expected to expand primary care capacity across the province, ensuring sustainable care for patients. Ongoing adjustments will be made as the model is implemented to better meet the needs of both physicians and patients.

Provincial Attachment System (PAS) Rollout

B.C.'s Provincial Attachment System, announced in July 2023, streamlined the process for connecting patients who do not have a primary care provider (either a family doctor or nurse practitioner) with a provider who can take on new patients. The system is comprised of a patient-facing branch (Health Connect Registry) and a provider-facing branch (Panel Registry & Clinic/Provider Registry) to help with attachment.

In February 2024, the Sea to Sky Division welcomed Veronique Paquette to the team as our Patient Attachment Coordinator. Veronique facilitates attachment between residents and Family Physicians or Nurse Practitioners using the Health Connect Registry and Provincial Attachment System (PAS) and supports providers with maintaining a balanced panel of patients, and meeting their attachment targets.

Sea to Sky Master Plan Survey

To address the growing healthcare needs in the Sea to Sky corridor, Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) is developing a Sea to Sky Health Services Master Plan. This initiative aims to improve healthcare services in Squamish, Whistler, and Pemberton, with input from local communities, governments, and First Nation partners. Phase one of community engagement was completed in December 2023, and the feedback received is being used to inform the draft clinical services plan. The second phase of engagement is set to begin in Fall 2024, where community members will have the opportunity to review and provide input on the draft plan.

2nd Annual Sea to Sky RCME Retreat

The 2nd Annual Sea to Sky RCME Retreat took place on October 13-14 at Nita Lake Lodge, bringing together local medical professionals for two days of education and networking. The event included a keynote presentation by Dr. Kathryn Wynn on ADHD, mood disorders, and substance misuse, followed by breakout sessions covering geriatrics, orthopaedics, psychiatry, and family medicine. Hands-on training included an NRP (Neonatal Resuscitation Skills) workshop and case-study discussions on challenging diagnoses in primary care. The event was supported by RCCBC's Rural CME funding, the Sea to Sky DOFP, and the SGH Facility Engagement Initiative and organized by a dedicated planning team, providing an enriching experience for all participants.

2023-2024 Year End Financial Summary

Please find the complete, audited financial statements [here](#).