



Golden Breastfeeding Support Clinic



Supporting Mothers, Babies, & Families Across the Columbia Valley

The Golden Breastfeeding Clinic is a dedicated, team-based service designed to provide timely, evidence-based lactation support for lactating persons and their support systems in Golden, Invermere, and surrounding communities.

The clinic brings together physicians, midwives, and public health nurses to offer compassionate care, improve breastfeeding success, and strengthen communication between hospitals, public health, and primary care.

How it Started

Breastfeeding support in rural communities can be hard to access, leaving families without timely help. Many parents struggle in the early days after hospital discharge when breastfeeding challenges often arise.

The Golden Breastfeeding Clinic was developed to fill this gap, ensuring feeding dyads receive coordinated, responsive, and culturally safe care from trusted local providers.

Project Goals

- Establish a weekly breastfeeding clinic by July 2027 for lactating persons in the Columbia Valley.
- Increase breastfeeding rates to 90% at 6 weeks and 76% at 6 months postpartum.
- Ensure high patient satisfaction and provider confidence.
- Improve communication and continuity of care between maternity, public health, and primary care providers.

Project Approach / Activities

- Weekly scheduled clinics in Golden for direct consultation and follow-up care.
- Integrated EMR documentation to support continuity and communication.
- Improved referral and reporting processes between acute care, Public Health, and primary care.
- Provider education and skill development through breastfeeding workshops and Lunch & Learns.
- Patient engagement through surveys and feedback to continually improve the clinic.

Expected Impact

- Improved breastfeeding rates and maternal-infant health outcomes.
- Enhanced patient and provider experience.
- Stronger collaboration and communication between care providers.
- Culturally safe and accessible care for all families.

Project Leads:

Dr. Virginia Clark, Family Physician
Joyce Totton, Registered Midwife

With support from East Kootenay Division of Family Practice Project Lead Diane Turner, Project Manager Jacqui van Zyl, and Executive Director Megan Purcell

Partners

Golden and Invermere Family Physicians and Midwives, Interior Health, Ktunaxa Nation, Métis Nation BC, Shuswap Band, Public Health Nurses, Shared Care and the East Kootenay Division of Family Practice.