

# COMOX VALLEY PCN UPDATE

November 2023 Issue #18

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## Welcome New Primary Care Network Staff



Lydia Powers, Registered Dietitian



Ashley Grzybowski, MSW/RSW

## The Comox Valley PCN Team is:



Sadie Quintal (Primary Care Clinical Pharmacist)

Sheila Fetter (Registered Dietitian)

Lydia Powers (Registered Dietitian)

Jolene Turney (MHSU Clinician) on leave returning  
January 2024

Eric Girard (Social Worker)

Susanna Millar (Social Worker)

Ashley Grzybowski (Social Worker)

Jennifer Spoor (RN Westward)

Kacey Walls (RN Cumberland)

### PCN Vacancies:

2 MHSU Clinician/Counsellors

2 PCN RN

## Indigenous Health Strategy

Starting this November Dr. Vanessa Brcic and Dr. Nancy Mcpherson will be adding an additional 2 days to the current ½ day a week of Primary Care at the K'ómoks First Nation Health Clinic.

The PCN has submitted a request to Ministry of Health to build upon the Indigenous Health Strategy that would enable the PCN to post for two Indigenous Health Advocates roles. These roles would be in partnership with one or more community organizations to support the Métis community and the urban and away from home Indigenous community. We hope to post for these roles this winter.



## CUMBERLAND VILLAGE HEALTH CARE

The Comox Valley PCN is pleased to announce the opening of the Beaufort Family Health Society's primary care clinic - Cumberland Village Health Care, a primary care clinic in Cumberland BC. Official clinic operations began on Tuesday September 5, 2023.

The concept of a community-led primary care clinic established and governed by a Board of Directors was introduced by former Cumberland mayor Leslie Baird, with continued support from the current mayor Vickey Brown and Council. The non-profit Beaufort Family Health Society was formed by a group of interested citizens with a wide range of skills needed to support the leadership, advocacy, funding and start-up of the clinic. A non-profit society-led primary care clinic is a new model in the Comox Valley and an emerging model in the rest of the province. This structure was selected to ensure sustainable long-term access to primary care by allowing patients to remain attached to the clinic, regardless of changes in providers.

The current team includes five Nurse Practitioners who are strong supporters of collaborative, interdisciplinary healthcare. With support from the PCN, Cumberland Village Health Care recently welcomed a registered nurse and are looking forward to working closely with Allied Healthcare Providers, including social workers, mental health clinicians, and registered dietitians and in the near future.

### Comox Valley Attachment Report October 2023

9,311  
attachments  
occurred from  
the HCR since  
May 2021

2,113 current  
Unattached  
individuals  
(HCR)

12,273  
Patients have  
been attached to  
a primary care  
provider since  
July 2021



HealthLinkBC

### First Nations Health Authority Resources

First Nations Health Benefits (FNHB) provides access to counselling services from qualified mental health providers. FNHB has three mental health programs:

- Short term crisis intervention mental health counselling
- Indian residential school resolution health support program
- Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Health Support Services

### BC Treatment Centres, Programs and Detox

The centres referenced [here](#) have confirmed that they are willing to accept FNHA's per diem rate for Status First Nations. Subsidy application information can be found in the information sheet.

MORE  
INFORMATION CAN  
BE FOUND IN THE  
**FACT SHEET AND  
GUIDE**





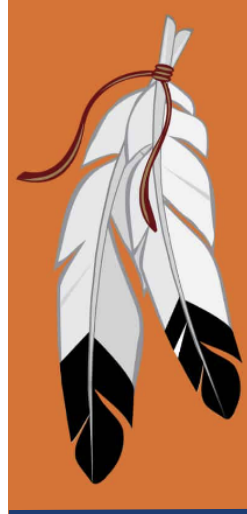


## Seeking: Lead physician to support “Patient Attachment Program”

A big thank you to Dr. Olena Beattie who has supported this work for the past year.

We are currently seeking a new lead physician or nurse practitioner for the Patient Attachment Program, including the Health Connect Registry. This lead role will help to guide and advise on the patient attachment program within the Division. The time commitment for this role will be 3 hours per month at the current Division program sessional rate. The lead will provide

guidance and input to our program team as we continue to build out the local Health Connect Registry and associated work to ensure the efficient connection of Comox Valley community members with local primary care providers/ clinics. The attachment program will also explore how our local community can be best supported with the ongoing process of patient attachments when new providers arrive to the community and in exploring proactive ways to support patient transitions to new providers when retirements or departures occur.



## From the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation

[781: A Story of Sports and Survival in Canadian Residential School](#)

Looking for something to read about Indigenous narratives and worldviews?

[Check these suggestions from the McLaughlin Library at the University of Guelph](#)

### What is It?

The Health Connect Registry launched in the Comox Valley in April 2021. It is an online self-registration tool available to all Comox Valley community members seeking a primary care provider.

### What is the Registry for?

The Registry acts as a centralized waitlist that:

- Connects patients to a primary care provider on a first registered, first attached basis.
- Reduces the administrative requirements of clinics who no longer need to maintain and manage their own waitlists.
- Provides a centralized location for primary care clinic staff to direct public inquiries about finding a provider.
- Creates equity for community members looking for a care provider.
- Supports the development/maintenance of balanced panels for physicians and nurse practitioners accepting patients into their practice.
- Supports individuals who reside south of the Oyster River and north of Bowser.

Since the registry launched in April 2021, 12,273 people have registered and 9,311 have been attached from the Registry to a physician or nurse practitioner within the Comox Valley.

If you would like more information or are interested in supporting this program as a lead physician, please contact [Lisa McDougall-Lee](#).

## Health Connect Registry

### YOUR PCN TEAM

#### CO CHAIRS:

Dr. Lucia Ma – PCN Physician Lead - [luciakma@gmail.com](mailto:luciakma@gmail.com)  
 Michelle Crosby - Island Health, Director CV & CR - [michelle.crosby@islandhealth.ca](mailto:michelle.crosby@islandhealth.ca)  
 Destinée Barrow - Métis Health Consultant - [destineebarrowconsulting@shaw.ca](mailto:destineebarrowconsulting@shaw.ca)  
 Tanille Johnston - First Nations Health Authority, Regional Primary Care Manager - [tanille.johnston@fnha.ca](mailto:tanille.johnston@fnha.ca)

#### PCN TEAM:

Gavin Arthur - PCN Manager - [garthur@comoxvalleydivision.ca](mailto:garthur@comoxvalleydivision.ca)  
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