Bella Coola is a rural, remote community situated in an 80km long valley on the central coast of BC with a dry pine forest at one end and the ocean at the other. Climate varies from up to 30 degrees C in summer and down to -15 with a howling wind in the winter.

Why would you move to Bella Coola?
- Love of outdoor living (hiking, camping, kayaking, fishing, heli-skiing, snowmobiling to name a few)
- Strong sense of community where people look out for one another
- Option to get to know your neighbours, or not, as you wish

Who thrives in Bella Coola?
- Independent, with a sense of adventure
- Don’t need city “trappings” (malls, Starbucks, etc) to feel content
- Not afraid of hard work
- Problem-solvers, like the challenge of “making do” with what is locally available
- Don’t let weather, challenging roads get in the way of life
- Personal privacy is respected
- Safe place to raise kids

RURAL PRACTICE IN BELLA COOLA

What health facilities are there?
- 15 bed hospital (5 LTC, 10 acute)
- Lab and x-ray service
- Medical clinic attached to the hospital includes pharmacy, physiotherapy, mental health services
- Community services available include home care, public health, LTC assessments, home support, drug and alcohol counselling, AA, and many others
- Parallel federal programs for the Nuxalk Nation includes public health, home care, home support, and access to many more

Why would you want to work in Bella Coola?
- Every shift is different
- Specialty is being a “generalist”
- Full continuum of patient care from prenatal to palliative (sometimes all in the same shift)
- Definite sense of contribution to community well-being
- Work closely with professionals from other disciplines, which affords learning opportunities and increased understanding of what other jobs are about
- Beautiful location
- Up-to-date facility

Where are the facilities?
- Hospital located downtown Bella Coola
- Federal health clinic located up the Valley approx. 4 miles

What qualities are important for health professionals?
- Value teamwork
- Clear communicators
- Problem-solvers able to shift priorities in a constantly changing environment
- Committed to the community
- Able to work alone
- Able to find resources independently

When is health care provided?
- Six nurses and three doctors provide 24/7 coverage for the hospital
- Staff are always “available” for crisis, even on days off
- Healthcare advice often solicited in the grocery store, at soccer games, etc.
- Phonecalls at home not uncommon

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