COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES

Port McNeill

COLLABORATION ALONG THE CONTINUUM OF CARE

- Located on the Northeast coast of Vancouver Island on Broughton Straight
- Named after Captain William Henry McNeill of the Hudson Bay Company
- Surrounded by spectacular coastal mountains, ocean and forest environment

Port McNeill Hospital

- Built in 1979, overlooking the Broughton Archipelago
- The hospital has 10 beds, an emergency department and a new observation unit
- Services include lab, x-ray, physio, diabetic education, nutritional service, hospice palliative care, ambulatory care program, mental health, and alcohol and drug counseling
- A working philosophy of interprofessional teamwork, health promotion, and patient education
- Port McNeill was successful in its application to Vancouver Island Health Authority for an innovative Primary Health Care Project, which will focus on multidisciplinary care through the continuum (facility to community)
- Port McNeill Hospital is in its 20th year of the UBC Family Practice Residence Program and 25th year of training second year medical students, and provides practicums for other disciplines

IRPbc has been an amazing experience. The community in Port McNeill has made us all feel very welcome...As students we have had incredible opportunities to learn from one another and from this community. ...The program puts much emphasis on interprofessional collaboration – meaning that all the students from various health disciplines have been working closely as a team towards meeting the needs of our clients here in the community. IRPbc has opened up my eyes to the full extent of my colleagues’ roles, and such understanding between the professions will improve patient care. Health care is certainly moving towards such an interprofessional approach and the professionals working in Port McNeill have proved an excellent model for such practice.

-MEG MILLER, nursing student

Port McNeill attractions

- Fishing, clam digging, scuba diving, wind surfing, skiing, swimming, ocean and white water kayaking, hiking, whale-watching, and much more

IRP student projects

- Summer 2003 students had an IRPbc booth with the Ambulance Services at our annual Orca Fest. Blood glucose testing and screening for hypertension was offered to the community. The student team provided information regarding the educational requirements for each discipline to encourage local students.
- Winter 2004 students held a presentation “Lungs for Life” at a local mall to raise awareness on factors that influence lung health. They did a breathtaking job!
- IRPbc at the Orca Fest
- “Lungs for Life”

Rural—remote

Medical care delivered by helicopter travel

- Our Port McNeill physicians travel to many peripheral clinics, taking with them students, dietitians, public health nurses, diabetic nurses, physiotherapists, etc.
- The communities include Kingcome Village, Gilford Village, Rivers Inlet (Owekeno Village), Zeballos, Kyuquot, Holberg, Woss (by road), Sointula (by boat)

www.bcahc.ca/irpbc

Interprofessional Rural Program of BC
A program of the BC Academic Health Council