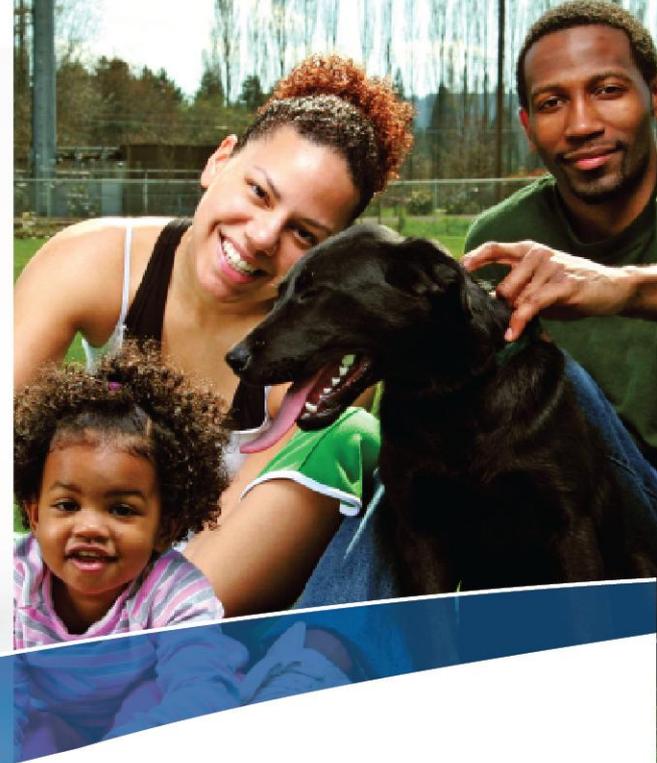


# Integrating Built Environment into Public Health Inspection



**northern health**  
*the northern way of caring*

# Introduction



Sabrina Dosanjh, EHO

- Sabrina is an Environmental Health Officer based in Terrace, British Columbia
- She obtained a Bachelor of Science with a major in Biological Sciences and a minor in Chemistry in 2008 from the University of Alberta and a Bachelor of Technology in Environmental Health from the BCIT
- She obtained her Certificate in Public Health Inspection (Canada) in 2010 and is near completion of a Certificate in Environmental and Occupational Health from the University of Victoria
- Sabrina is also a member of NH's Healthy Built Environment Committee and is actively involved in Healthy Community initiatives in the Northwest

- Neelam works as an Environmental Health Officer in Prince George, BC. She graduated from BCIT in 2009 from the Environmental Health Program
- Attending the University of Northern British Columbia where she completed her Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
- Neelam has been working for Northern Health for a little over three years now
- She sits on a Healthy Built Environment Committee and has been working on initiatives to have more EHO involvement in Built Environment and Healthy Communities work



Neelam Parmar, EHO



# Table of Contents

- NH's Position on Healthy Communities
- What is Healthy Built Environment?
- NH Healthy Built Environment Committee
- Success Stories of EHOs and HBE
- Questions?





# The story that describes our approach to health care

“You know,” he said, “sometimes it feels like this. There I am standing by the shore of a swiftly flowing river, and I hear the cry of a drowning man. So I jump into the river, put my arms around him, pull him to shore and apply artificial respiration. Just when he begins to breathe, there is another cry for help. So I jump into the river, reach him, pull him to shore, apply artificial respiration, and then just as he begins to breathe, another cry for help. So back in the river again, reaching, pulling, applying, breathing and then another yell. Again and again, without end, goes the sequence. You know, I am so busy jumping in, pulling them to shore, applying artificial respiration, that I have no time to see who the hell is upstream pushing them all in.”

**Dr. McKinley (at his presentation at a Health Planning Forum).**

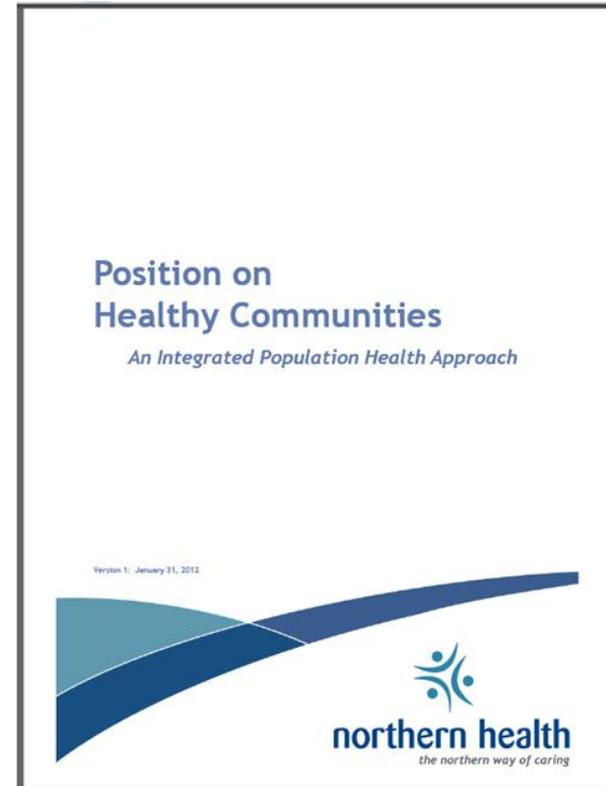


# We Support Healthy Communities

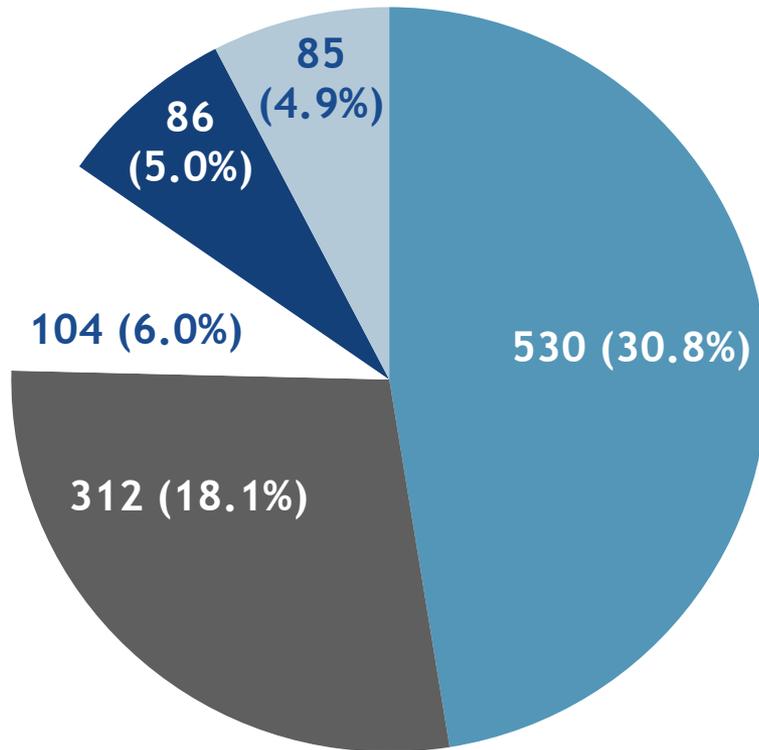
- Healthier communities support their residents to adopt healthy lifestyles, with equitable access to physical activity, local fresh foods, and tobacco-free settings where they celebrate social and cultural connections with their neighbours.

- <http://www.northernhealth.ca/AboutUs/PositionStatementsAddressingRiskFactors.asp>

X



# Top 5 Leading Causes of Death in NH (2009)



■ 1: Cancer

■ 2: Heart Disease

■ 3: Cerebrovascular disease

■ 4: Unintentional Injuries

■ 5: Chronic pulmonary disease

# What is Healthy Built Environment?

- “Built Environment” refers to the surroundings that humans have created
  - Influencing the built environment positively impacts population health

*A healthy built environment is the foundation to healthy living*



# What is Healthy Built Environment



# NH's Healthy Built Environment Committee

- This committee serves as a venue to exchange ideas and build capacity and expertise involving the built environment
- Committee members provide support to other EHOs in the field of built environment



# What does HBE Committee do?

- Develop resources for EHOs when commenting on referrals (i.e. OCPs, land referrals, subdivisions, environmental assessments)
- Health Hazard Program Development
- Develop “Septic Smart” resources for homeowners
- Food Security Initiatives
- Air quality resources
- Supporting NH’s Healthy Communities Approach



- FoodSafe
  - EHOs are actively teaching food safety skills to community members



- EHOs are members of local community groups:
  - Healthy Community Committees
  - Housing
  - Air Quality
  - Social Planning
  - Interagency
  - Food
  - Land use



# EHO Success Stories

- EHOs actively support community initiatives pertaining to health
  - Community recreation grants
  - Active transportation grants
  - Bike to Work Week
  - Food security grants
  - Letters of support



- Canning Workshop
  - Public Health Protection teamed up with Population Health to organize and attend a “Train the Trainer” canning workshop in Fort Nelson



## ● Kitimat Food Share

- Food recovery program administered by the Kitimat Community Services Society and a group of volunteers
- Development of the program incorporated EHO input from the onset



# EHO Success Stories



- Smart Growth Workshop
  - *Linking Planning and Health*
  - Collaborate on:
    - Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP)
    - Official Community Plan (OCP)
    - Subdivision and development procedures bylaw
    - Active transportation plan



- PG OCP Comments
  - Air Quality, Land use, Housing, Transportation, Development, Environmental Sustainability, Agricultural lands, Green Buildings and Infrastructure, Social Sustainability



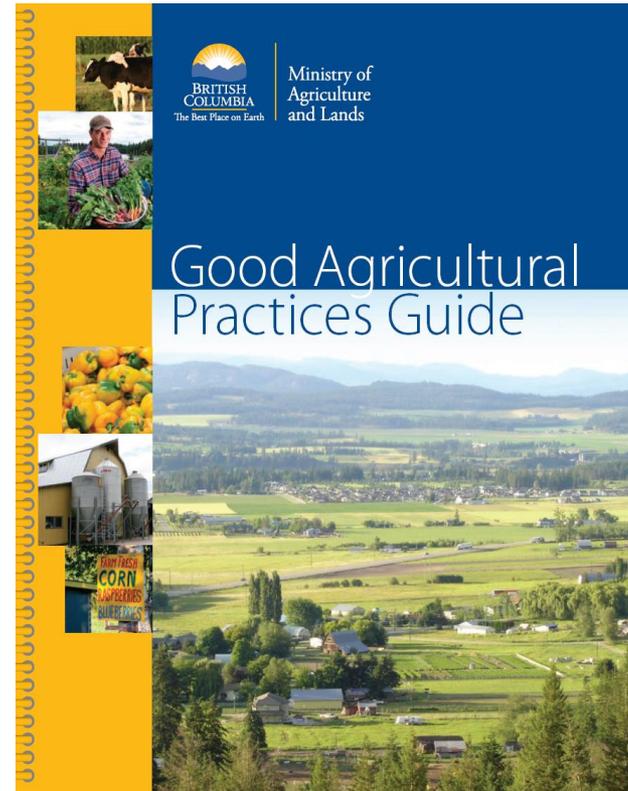
# EHO Success Story...a Food Security Initiative

- GAP workshop
- MarketSafe
- Safe Water for Small Systems



# EHO Success Story...a Food Security Initiative: Good Agricultural Practices

- The cornerstone of the process is the application of the BC Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Guide, produced by the Ministry of Agriculture
- The purpose of the GAP Guide is to assist producers in implementing food safety practices at the farm level



# EHO Success Story...a Food Security Initiative: Steps and Tools

- Review GAP Guide
- Attend workshop
- Complete Self Audit & Declaration
- Confirm potable water
- Letter of “No Objection”



# EHO Success Story...a Food Security Initiative: BC MarketSafe

- A food safety training program for farmers and producers who make, bake or grow products to sell at local farmers' markets

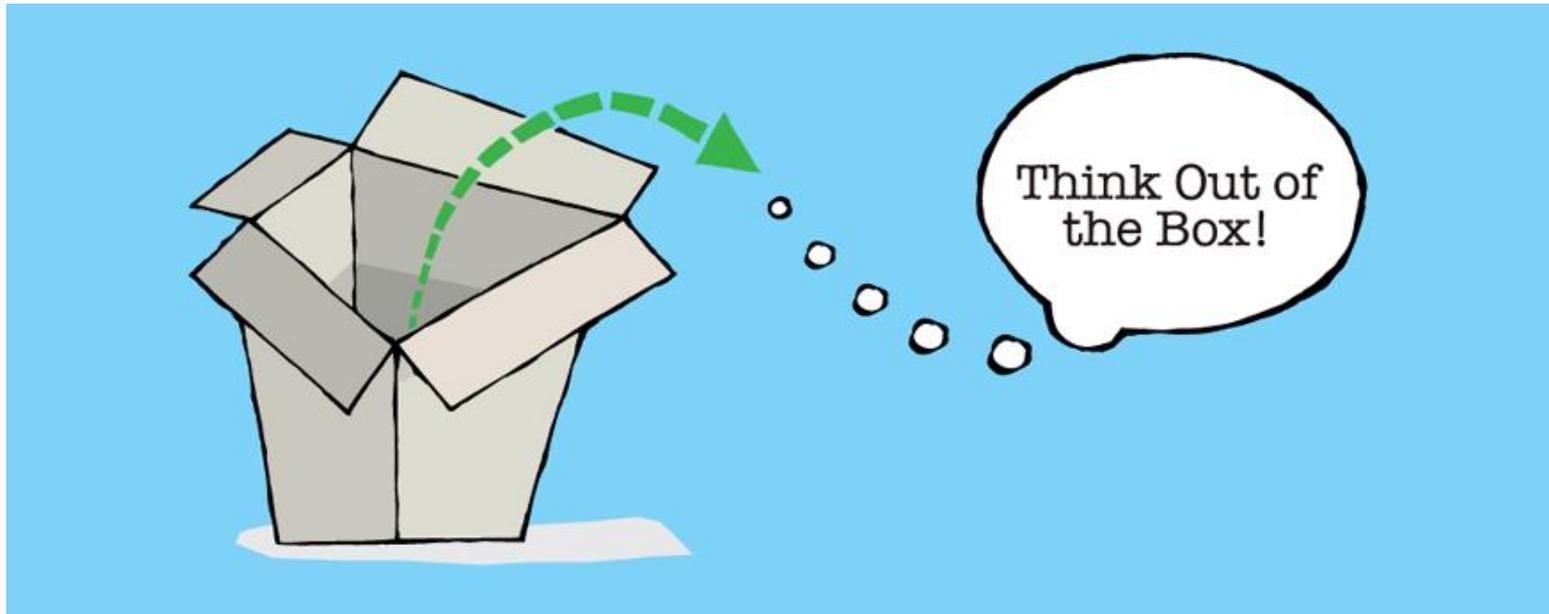


# EHO Success Story...a Food Security Initiative: Safe Water

- Northern Health provided education and water sampling (up to 2 samples per season) to local producers for the sampling of both potable and irrigation water



# Conclusion



# Questions?

