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## NEWS RELEASE

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### Northern Clinical Simulation Centres - the leading edge of learning

Medical and nursing students and practitioners will benefit from unique and state-of-the-art learning environments at four Northern Health (NH) and two university facilities, thanks to a partnership with the University of British Columbia's Northern Medical Program (NMP) and the School of Nursing at the University of Northern BC (UNBC).

"This project and partnership clearly reflects NH's organizational values of collaboration and innovation," said Cathy Ulrich, Northern Health President and CEO. "It is also an example of our commitment to providing high-quality services by fostering a learning environment with our academic partners."

The \$2.4 million investment in Northern Clinical Simulation Centres allows students and clinicians to work with patient simulators - interactive training mannequins - to hone their skills in different treatment scenarios. The centres are located at the University Hospital of Northern British Columbia (UHNBC), GR Baker Hospital in Quesnel, Terrace's Mills Memorial, and at the Prince George and Quesnel UNBC campuses. Each facility underwent renovations to create critical care and ward rooms, where a range of technologies are available for physicians and nurses to diagnose and treat patients. A fourth centre will be located at the new Fort St. John Hospital, opening in 2012.

"By working together we have been able to do so much more than we could have achieved separately," said Dr. David Snadden, Regional Associate Dean of the Northern Medical Program. "This partnership gives us a huge opportunity to have our health care providers practice together in a realistic environment with the aim of us providing the best care we can to northern patients."

The patient simulator mannequins at each site are realistic training tools for simulating a variety of patient care and advanced life-saving skills in medical emergencies. With spontaneous breathing, airway control, voice, sounds and many other clinical features, the mannequins are ideal tools for practicing everything from routine procedures, to emergency care and defibrillation or resuscitation. They respond to clinical intervention, instructor control, and pre-programmed scenarios.

"By sharing resources and working cooperatively, we are able to make resources available for health professional education across northern British Columbia," said Martha McLeod, Chair of UNBC School of Nursing. "Doctors, nurses and others will use the simulation training to learn how to work smoothly together to provide the best care for patients."

Leading-edge patient simulation technology is already in use at various medical and teaching facilities in BC. But the Northern Clinical Simulation Centres are unique in terms of their design,

coordination, and the collaborative partnership between the UBC's Northern Medical Program, UNBC's School of Nursing, and Northern Health that made them a reality.

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