
NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
November 2, 2012

Fourth patient simulation centre in northern BC opens in Fort St. John: Instructor training sessions take place Nov. 6 and 7

November 2, 2012 -- Leading-edge technology featuring interactive simulated patients is now available at the new hospital at Fort St. John to help train all levels of health care providers. The latest Northern Clinical Simulation Centre is the fourth such facility in northern BC, joining others in Prince George, Terrace, and Quesnel.

Each simulation centre allows students and clinicians to work with interactive training mannequins (known as patient simulators) to hone their skills in different treatment scenarios.

With spontaneous breathing, airway control, voice, sounds and more, 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.

The partnership and controlled environment allow for unique opportunities in which educators can develop and practice inter-professional training.

The Fort St. John facility will hold its first simulation training sessions for health care practitioners and medical and nursing students on November 6 and 7, 2012. Topics include setup and operation of the "SimMan," and best practices.

This state-of-the-art learning environment is offered thanks to a partnership between Northern Health, the University of British Columbia's Northern Medical Program and the School of Nursing at the University of Northern BC.

Patient simulation technology is already in use at various medical and teaching facilities in BC. The Northern Clinical Simulation Centres are unique in terms of their design, coordination, and the collaborative partnership.

When the simulation centres were launched in 2011, Cathy Ulrich, Northern Health President and CEO, commented: "This project and partnership clearly reflects NH's organizational values of collaboration and innovation. It is also an example of our commitment to providing high-quality services by fostering a learning environment with our academic partners."

Media Contact(s):

NH media line - 250-961-7724

Northern Medical Program/UNBC School of Nursing
UNBC Communications - 250-960-5621