

**The vision for the BC SUPPORT Unit Northern Centre is for people, families and communities to have the opportunity to be engaged in health research, through effective partnerships that are built on mutual respect.**

**Guiding Principles for the Northern Centre:**

1. The Northern Centre will work to engage people, families and communities to identify priorities for health research in the north, with a particular focus on health systems research in the following areas:
  - a. Seniors' health and wellbeing, inclusive of frailty, home care, housing, dementia care, health promotion, active living
  - b. Chronic disease prevention and management
  - c. Mental health/mental wellness
  - d. Rural health services
  - e. Healthy child development
  - f. Industry and the resource economy, and their impacts on the health of northern people
2. The Northern Centre will build a culture of person/family/community-oriented research through practical, concrete supports that are easily accessible and available to all.
3. The Northern Centre will align with the UNBC/NH partnership strategy, and the BC Academic Health Science Network.
4. The Northern Centre will seek to learn from, partner with, and engage Indigenous communities and individuals in the north.
5. The Northern Centre will seek innovative methods to engage, support and build capacity with non-academic healthcare practitioners in patient-oriented research (POR) participation and activities.
6. The Northern Centre will be built on existing expertise and capacity in the north.
7. The Northern Centre will work to establish effective partnerships and collaboration with health organizations, other regional and community organizations, other rural and northern areas in Canada, and other related groups.
8. Development of the Northern Centre will be person/family/community-centered, and respectful of the northern context and cultures. Engagement will be early, ongoing, authentic and well beyond tokenism.
9. A broad range of perspectives, demographics, and age groups will be sought, heard and included, with an inclusive and equitable approach where every perspective is treated as important.

10. The Northern Centre will seek to learn from others and strive to ensure that POR in the north honours diversity and is culturally safe for all.
11. Communication, education and information materials about person/family/community-oriented research will be clear and straightforward, and will be distributed in timely and ongoing ways.

**By March 31, 2021:**

- We (NH-UNBC) will have established a strong foundation for how to effectively engage people/families/communities, as well as healthcare practitioners, as research partners, to work towards overcoming the health-related challenges in northern B.C.;
- Researchers will be partnering with Northern Health, healthcare practitioners, and people/families/communities to address knowledge needs and gaps; and,
- People/families/communities in the north will feel valued as partners that can help improve people's quality of life.

2017-'18	2018-'19	2019-'20	2020-'21
<b>Regional Centre Core Function 1: Patient and Stakeholder Engagement</b>			
<p><b>a.</b> Outline and clearly communicate engagement services to be offered through the Northern Centre and <a href="#">SUPPORT Unit</a>.</p> <p><b>b.</b> Develop, resource and implement a multi-year communication and engagement plan (including evaluation) in support of targeted, deliberate and widespread stakeholder outreach and relationship development with Indigenous people and groups, community organizations, and other groups to reach diverse / representative people, family and community members.</p> <p><b>c.</b> Determine possible POR pilots/prototypes.</p> <p><b>d.</b> Offer SUPPORT Unit POR training that is relevant for the northern context.</p> <p><b>e.</b> Ongoing outreach and communications with person/family/community groups.</p> <p><b>f.</b> Establish strong partnerships with healthcare practitioner organizations.</p> <p><b>g.</b> Develop and implement engagement plan to target both academic and non-academic healthcare practitioners (physicians, nurses, primary care providers, etc.) and include them in POR education, planning and development.</p> <p><b>h.</b> Provide relevant resources, tools, materials and reports – both physically and online.</p> <p><b>i.</b> Establish person/family/community recruitment and orientation processes with the northern Engagement Leaders of the Patient Voices Network for specific research projects.</p> <p><b>j.</b> Develop engagement plan for broad-based, person/family/community engagement on research priorities, within the context of established Northern Health priorities.</p> <p><b>k.</b> Identify and establish additional partnerships / relationships with relevant and related organizations and groups.</p>	<p><b>a.</b> Ongoing outreach, communications, training and relationship building.</p> <p><b>b.</b> Implement engagement plan on identifying research priorities.</p> <p><b>c.</b> Track demographics of respondents and implement targeted outreach of underrepresented groups as required.</p> <p><b>d.</b> Implement POR pilot/prototypes.</p> <p><b>e.</b> Ongoing capacity building for person/family/community members, and healthcare practitioners, to partner on research teams.</p> <p><b>f.</b> Ongoing stakeholder/participant evaluation and annual report.</p> <p><b>g.</b> Ongoing measurement and evaluation.</p>	<p><b>a.</b> Needs analysis engagement / Year 3 assessment and confirmation of objectives.</p> <p><b>b.</b> Ongoing partnership support for research projects, as required.</p> <p><b>c.</b> Ongoing outreach, communications and training.</p> <p><b>d.</b> Establish peer-led training opportunities.</p> <p><b>e.</b> Ongoing measurement and evaluation.</p> <p><b>f.</b> Communications focus on northern POR / engagement success stories, measurement, progress and impacts.</p> <p><b>g.</b> Ongoing stakeholder/participant evaluation and annual report.</p>	<p><b>a.</b> Sustainability assessment, planning and capacity development for POR post-2021.</p> <p><b>b.</b> Communications focus on northern POR / engagement success stories, measurement, progress and impacts.</p> <p><b>c.</b> Person/family/community engagement to assess needs and priorities for 2021 and beyond.</p> <p><b>d.</b> Final stakeholder/participant evaluation and final report.</p>

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<b>Regional Centre Core Function 2: Research Navigation</b>			
<p><b>a.</b> Outline and clearly communicate research navigation services to be offered through the Northern Centre and provincial hub.</p> <p><b>b.</b> Establish a network of researchers engaged and interested in POR in the north (including non-academic healthcare practitioners/providers).</p> <p><b>c.</b> Leverage local (UNBC &amp; NH) and provincial resources (SUPPORT Unit &amp; <a href="#">Methods Clusters</a>).</p> <p><b>d.</b> Explore opportunities for POR in the following areas: Frail Elders, Mental Health and Wellness, and Rural Network.</p> <p><b>e.</b> Provide relevant resources, tools, materials and reports – both physically and online.</p> <p><b>f.</b> Implement tracking, evaluation and reporting mechanisms for research navigation functions.</p>	<p><b>a.</b> Support collaboration for research with people/families/community, researchers and providers.</p> <p><b>b.</b> Actively support the formation of POR research teams, based on community &amp; health system priorities (outlined under Core Function 1).</p> <p><b>c.</b> Collaboratively establish guidelines in support of a northern POR research pathway.</p> <p><b>d.</b> Ongoing measurement and evaluation</p> <p><b>e.</b> Communications focus on northern research navigation success stories, measurement, progress and impacts.</p>	<p><b>a.</b> Ongoing support and delivery of services, communication, relationship building, and facilitation.</p> <p><b>b.</b> Ongoing measurement and evaluation.</p> <p><b>c.</b> Communications focus on northern research navigation success stories, measurement, progress and impacts.</p>	<p><b>a.</b> Sustainability assessment, planning and capacity development for POR post-2021.</p> <p><b>b.</b> Communications focus on northern research navigation success stories, measurement, progress and impacts.</p>
<b>Regional Centre Core Function 3: <a href="#">Knowledge Translation (KT)</a></b>			
<p><b>a.</b> Outline and clearly communicate KT services and activities to be offered through Centre and the provincial hub.</p> <p><b>b.</b> Develop engagement plan to enable / facilitate interactions among researchers and knowledge users (including patients and practitioners/providers).</p> <p><b>c.</b> Support integrated knowledge translation and facilitate ongoing mentorship, coaching and education.</p> <p><b>d.</b> Develop and facilitate connections with the SUPPORT Unit KT Methods Cluster.</p> <p><b>e.</b> Engage / align with the NH-UNBC Knowledge Mobilization Research Chair and Knowledge Synthesis Centre.</p> <p><b>f.</b> Seek and implement KT best practices from academia and others – adapted to the northern context.</p>	<p><b>a.</b> Host ongoing in-person &amp; virtual KT activities.</p> <p><b>b.</b> Explore and develop innovative methods and tools for bringing KT services to more rural and isolated communities. Explore and develop innovative methods and tools for bringing KT services to healthcare practitioners</p> <p><b>c.</b> Adapt and commence prototyping POR methods for 2-3 initiatives.</p>	<p><b>a.</b> Ongoing support and delivery of services, communication, relationship building, and facilitation.</p> <p><b>b.</b> Report results of POR-based KT initiatives, and solicit stakeholder input in support of continuous improvement.</p> <p><b>c.</b> Ongoing evaluation and measurement.</p>	<p><b>a.</b> Sustainability assessment, planning and capacity development for POR post-2021.</p> <p><b>b.</b> Communications focus on northern KT success stories, measurement, progress and impacts.</p>

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<p><b>g.</b> Provide relevant resources, tools, materials and reports– both physically and online.</p>	<p><b>d.</b> Implement engagement plan and report on results, including outreach to SUPPORT Unit and provincial stakeholders. <b>e.</b> Implement evaluation and measurement.</p>	<p><b>d.</b> Communications focus on northern KT success stories, measurement, progress and impacts.</p>	
<p><b>Regional Centre Core Function 4: Capacity Development &amp; Training</b></p>			
<p><b>a.</b> Establish and develop strong partnerships with other B.C. <a href="#">regional centres</a>, as well as other northern regions in Canada. <b>b.</b> Work to understand cultural sensitivities in POR, and address cultural safety, respect and trauma-informed practice in capacity/training services. <b>c.</b> Identify capacity development and training initiatives already underway in the north, and look for opportunities to align/partner/work together (i.e. PVN, KT Connects, etc.). <b>d.</b> Identify skill gaps and priority areas for training, for all stakeholder groups (patients/family/community, researchers, practitioners, etc.). <b>e.</b> Explore and develop innovative methods and tools for bringing training to more rural and isolated communities. <b>f.</b> Maintain strong connections to the SUPPORT Unit for training and capacity development opportunities. <b>g.</b> Maintain strong connections to the SUPPORT Unit Methods Clusters, Demonstration Projects and <a href="#">Data Platform</a>. <b>h.</b> Provide relevant resources, tools, materials and reports– both physically and online. <b>i.</b> Outline and clearly communicate all capacity development and training services to be offered through Northern Centre and provincial hub.</p>	<p><b>a.</b> Facilitate training pathways for the northern region for all major stakeholder groups. <b>b.</b> Measurement and evaluation of capacity development functions, using CIHR-established criteria. <b>c.</b> Ongoing outreach, promotion, enrollment and delivery of training for patients, practitioners/providers, researchers, etc.</p>	<p><b>a.</b> Develop multi-stakeholder engagement plan to reassess training needs. <b>b.</b> Implement and report on engagement plan. <b>c.</b> Develop new training programs, including web modules for distance learning, based on engagement results. <b>d.</b> Ongoing measurement and evaluation. <b>e.</b> Communications focus on northern POR / training measurement, progress and impacts.</p>	<p><b>a.</b> Sustainability assessment, planning and capacity development for POR post-2021. <b>b.</b> Communications focus on northern POR / training measurement, progress and impacts.</p>

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<b>Northern Centre Operations</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Finalize Roadmap and integrate into operational plans.</li> <li>b. Adequately resource the operational plan.</li> <li>c. Establish effective communications and training platform, both physically and online.</li> <li>d. Detailed work planning and budget for 2018-2020.</li> <li>e. 2017-'18 reporting.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Refresh 2018-'19 workplans and deliverables.</li> <li>b. Detailed work planning and budget for 2019-2021.</li> <li>c. 2018-'19 reporting.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Confirm/ refresh 2019-'20 workplans and deliverables.</li> <li>b. 2019-'20 reporting.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Refresh 2020-'21 workplans and deliverables.</li> <li>b. Research potential funding sources to operate Regional Centre beyond Year 5.</li> <li>c. 2020-'21 reporting.</li> </ul>
<b>Northern Centre Governance</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Confirm governance structure for Northern Centre, based on input from stakeholders in the north, plus best practices at SUPPORT Unit and other Regional Centres.</li> <li>b. Establish terms of reference for a collaborative (multi-stakeholder) advisory committee with person/family/community representation.</li> <li>c. Communicate, recruit, screen and intake advisory committee members.</li> <li>d. Inaugural meeting of the northern POR advisory committee to review and refine the Northern Centre Roadmap.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Amend Northern Centre Roadmap as necessary.</li> <li>b. Review and revise evaluation criteria as necessary.</li> <li>c. Regular meetings of advisory committee, and ongoing reporting.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Regular meetings of advisory committee, and ongoing reporting.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Regular meetings of advisory committee, and ongoing reporting.</li> </ul>

NOTE: "Stakeholders" includes both internal and external participants.