

## Message from our President: Dr. Kathryn Hale

Dear Physicians,

As we move into summer in the Kootenays the KBPA has been continuing to move projects forward on behalf of the members.

As your representative, working with the Operations Director Andrea Dutchak and our Chief of Staff, Dr. Sue Benzer, we are actively discussing space utilization in the hospital. We will continue to engage with them as the work progresses and invite your input through Dr. Benzer to envision your needs as changes are being planned. In particular I am aiming to ensure physician work spaces and as the technology in the hospital evolves, to ensure we have mobile work stations where needed.



The gym will be opening soon for the entire KBRH team and we are thankful for the hard work over the past year from Dr. Seth Bitting as a leader and Kimberley Pegg as a staff support for their collaboration with IHA teams to get the facility in place.

Along with successes the KBRH medical staff is seeing vacancies in many departments. The KBPA has dedicated funding for recruitment and will be actively supporting all aspects of recruitment.

We will be hosting our AGM in the fall and there will be an announcement soon on the surprise location for our meeting and social so stay tuned!

At the AGM we will be seeing two of our committed board members leaving as their term expires. The KBPA board is active in supporting projects and managing the direction of the association - if you are interested in joining our team for a term please contact our managing director Mona Mattei [mmattei@kbpa.ca](mailto:mmattei@kbpa.ca).

Have a great summer and take time to rejuvenate yourself!

## Contents

From the President

Up and Coming Events

Project Spotlight

In-House Matters

New Physicians

Facility Engagement Working Group

Department Heads

KBPA Projects

Contact Us

---

## Up and Coming Events

**KBRH Gym Opening 1st July, 2023**



The KBRH gym will officially open July 1 for use by all staff. There will be no cost for use of the gym July and August. As of September gym fees will need to be paid for continued use. Fees \$120/yr/medical staff should be paid to MSA by etransfer to [treasurer@kbpa.ca](mailto:treasurer@kbpa.ca). \*learners will be free.

In order to access the gym you will need to sign a waiver prior to IHA activating your Chubb card for the facility. The waiver can be completed and submitted by email or in person to [Genevieve.David@interiorhealth.ca](mailto:Genevieve.David@interiorhealth.ca). If you have not received the email with the waiver form contact Genevieve to get a copy.

---

## Celebrating Indigenous People's Day

21st June, 2023

**Kootenay South  
Métis Society**

*Presents*  
**INDIGENOUS  
PEOPLES' DAY**  
"Come One, Come All, Everyone Welcome"  
Bring your lawn chairs!



**When:** Saturday June 17, 2023  
**Time:** 11 am to 4 pm  
**Where:** Gyro Park, Trail BC

**Entertainment**

- Jingle Dancers
- Golden City Fiddlers
- Eagle Bear Spirit Drummers
- Métis Jigging
- Artisans
- Kids Crafts
- Métis Registration Information
- Hamburgers, Hot Dogs & Buffalo Burgers
- Fry Bread & Bannock
- and more entertainers!

**Thank You To Our Sponsors**

**BOUNDARY ALL NATIONS ABORIGINAL COUNCIL**  
INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE  
**NATIONAL INDIGENOUS DAY**  
WITH A **FREE** BBQ DINNER!  
  
\*\*WHEN: WEDNESDAY JUNE 21<sup>st</sup> 4PM-7PM\*\*  
\*\*WHERE: GALLERY 2 IN GRAND FORKS, BC\*\*  
524 CENTRAL AVE  
  
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!  
  
BBQ//BANNOCK//DRUMMING//BINGO//PRIZES  
  
"CRAFT TABLE FROM THE CIRCLE OF INDIGENOUS NATIONS SOCIETY"  
  
LET'S KICK OFF THE SUMMER SOLSTICE AND HAVE A BLAST!  
BRING YOUR HAND DRUM!  
  
SPONSORED BY BANAC AND INTERIOR HEALTH AND GALLERY 2  
  
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL OR TEXT KERRI-ANNE 250 809 8308  


**8th Annual  
ABORIGINAL  
DAY!**



**WHEN & WHERE:**  
**June 21 3-7 pm**  
**Pass Creek Park**  
**Castlegar, BC**  
  
**FREE!**  
**EVERYONE WELCOME!**  
  
Please bring something to sit on and your own dishes if possible.

**FEATURING: FOOD, ABORIGINAL CULTURE AND TRADITIONS, CRAFTS, DRUMMING, DANCING, CEREMONY, STORY TELLING, STICK GAMES, SCAVENGER HUNT AND VENDORS**  
  
**ALL AGES EVENT**  
**FREE DOOR PRIZES**  
**SPECIAL GIFTS FOR CHILDREN BY AN ELDER IN TEEPEE!**  
  
**SPONSORS**  
**SAFARIWAY**  
**TROWELX**  
**MCDONALDS**  
  


KBRH Physician's Lounge

Due to the popularity of the KBRH Physicians Lounge, we are now actively working on developing a funding strategy to support the provision of snacks and drinks in a sustainable manner.

Lead Dr. Carolyn Stark together with Mona Mattei, Tara Dias and the KBPA board are working on a sustainability plan for the KBRH Physicians Lounge. Your feedback is welcome.

Besides the funding piece, our approach involves making intentional decisions about the types of drinks and snacks we offer, with a strong emphasis on sustainability. In order to minimize our environmental impact, we will actively encourage the use of reusable containers and utensils, thereby eliminating the need for single-use plastics.

**Please note:** Freshly made soups and meals are in the freezer. Soups \$9 and meals \$17 please forward your e-transfer to Jenn - details are on the container.

---

## Project Spotlights

### DYAD Dinner - 25th May 2023

Last year Dr. Sue Benzer submitted a KBPA project proposal to build and invest in Dyad Culture at KBRH. On 25th May, 2023 Dr. Benzer led the first KBRH Dyad Dinner Meeting; 8 physician department heads and 7 nursing managers actively participated in the KBRH Dyad Dinner Meeting at the Josie.

The purpose of this meeting was to foster strong dyad partnerships, enhance workplace wellness and culture, and ultimately elevate the quality of patient care. By strengthening the Dyad relationships and cultivating a positive work environment the Dyad team aims to improve patient care outcomes and create an environment that prioritizes the well-being of all team members.

Some feedback from the physicians:

"I think this truly strengthened the dyad partnership and I already see positive aspects of the relationship with my Dyad partner"

"Great to get to know everyone and hear what challenges were occurring in other departments"

Dr Benzer said, "This meeting was a pilot and from the attendance and discussion at the meeting, we look forward to forging strong relationships with our Dyads".

---

### KBRH Staff Appreciation day - 25th May, 2023



KBPA sponsored a Staff Appreciation Day at KBRH on 25th May, 2023 giving gratitude to all IH staff and physicians who work at KBRH. Free coffee and tea kept, Craig and Lily the Grind's amazing barista's, busy. A [Kudo Board](#) was also created on the day to capture a brief note of gratitude to a colleague, team member, or someone else who has made a positive impact on your work experience here at KBRH . Picture: Kristen Guerra, Dr. Sue Benzer | Craig and Lily | Big Al, Bev and Julia.

---



## Violence Prevention Training - 5th June, 2023

KBRH Violence Prevention Training (Pilot), was held at the Josie on the 5th June, 2023. Led by Rob Mitchell IH and Dr Sue Benzer KBRH and facilitated by KBRH Helen Clugston, 16 KBRH physicians attended. The training provided medical staff in high risk areas with the knowledge, strategies and skills to support the prevention and de-escalation of potential violent situations in the workplace. The training is delivered in a 3-part sequence; elearning 1.5hr online component, live 2 hour training and a site session post June 5th, 2023.

2 hour x sessionals were provided + UBC CPD credits.

This program was co-developed between Kootenay Boundary Physicians Association and Safety, Wellbeing, Innovation, Training & Collaboration in Healthcare (SWITCH BC) and was planned to achieve scientific integrity, objectivity, and balance. Thank you to our partners Interior Health, Accredited by UBC & CPD, KBPA/FE, Doctors of BC, Switch BC, Dr. Sue Benzer.



---

## In-House Matters

### Doctors of BC advocates for emergency department doctors and their patients

Advocacy is a big part of the work Doctors of BC does. We have been supporting the Section of Emergency Medicine in its efforts to address the major challenges our emergency departments are facing as physicians struggle to provide safe, quality care.

In May, Doctors of BC supported the Section with a media strategy and [news release](#) to take these serious issues to the public, resulting in major media coverage. We will continue to support this work and will keep our members updated on developments.

---

## KBRH and Medical Staff Recruitment and Retention Dinner Guidelines

In order to manage our budgets dedicated to recruitment and new recruit welcoming dinners, KBPA is asking that department heads planning a dinner to complete this request form and submit it to [Kimberley Pegg](#), KBRH Recruitment and Retention Lead. Dinners being planned must provide at least 7 days notice and budgets may be restricted depending on the demand over the coming year. Participants are always welcome to top up available funding as needed.

### [KBRH Recruitment Retention Guidelines](#)

## Ski for Free in KB Campaign

One of the primary KB Doctors marketing strategies is our Ski for Free in KB campaign, aimed at attracting physicians to our region. The campaign involves providing ski passes that facilitate physician recruitment visits, new recruits, locums, residents, and medical students. Additionally, when not utilized for recruitment, these passes are made available for retention purposes among KB region's med staff.

Discussions are underway for 2023/24 partnerships with Red Resort, Whitewater, Black Jack Ski Club and Nelson Nordic for the KB Region to support efforts to recruit physicians to our region.

Stay tuned details will be out soon.

### Statistics of Use at Red Resort 22/23

#### Red Resort:

##### Summary of Pass Use:

Category	*Pass Use
IH Approved Recruitment Visit or visiting Physician	16
Resident or Visiting Resident	38
New Recruits (recruited in the last 12 months)	21
Locums	41
KBPA Board	33
KBRH Med Staff (physicians that work at KBRH)	62
Total Use 2 x Red Resort Passes	211

- 22/23 season: total use of the 2 Red Resort Passes was 211 on our scheduling spreadsheet however, confirming an actual number of use with Red Resort the total was 181 uses. A deficit of 30. So 30 times the pass was scheduled but not used.
- Pass Use - was the number of times the pass was used, sometimes it was used multiple times by the same person.

### Feedback 22/23 Ski for Free in KB Campaign:

*"I thought it was a great program! As a visiting resident I thought it was an excellent experience, and I greatly appreciated not only the passes, but the prompt and kind communication. It allowed me to get out and see the area more than I probably would have, and would definitely be a positive influence towards me coming back as a practicing physician when my training is complete."* Dr. Matthew Prisk R2 - Family medicine. From Kamloops, visiting Nelson!



*"I think this is a great program, hopefully will help with recruitment either directly or indirectly!!"* Dr. Tara Gill

*"This was a great service for learners and locums. I would highly recommend continuing."* Dr. Deanna Teichrob

*"Thank you, this is a wonderful program that benefit so many!"* Dr. Carolyn Stark

---

## New Physicians



### Dr. Elena Shurshilova - Psychiatrist

**Where did you grow up?** I grew up in Russia and most of my childhood was spent in Siberia

**Medical School and Residency?** I did my medical school in Saratov, the City on a Volga River, attending over 125 years old University , pediatric faculty. I did my residency in Saskatoon Saskatchewan.

**What is your favorite thing to do in the Kootenays?** My favourite things to do in Kootenays are snow bathing, downhill skiing and mushroom picking.

---



## Dr. Sharon Ham - Hospitalist

**Where did you grow up?** I was born and raised in Rossland

**Medical School and Residency?** I Graduated from the Selkirk College RN program in 1986. I went to McMaster University for my medical training 2004-2007. I did my Family practice residency in Victoria 2007-2009. I have been working as a Hospitalists in Victoria since 2009. **What is your favorite thing to do in the Kootenays?** My favourite thing to do in the Kootenays.....all outdoor activities year round.

---

## Facilities Engagement Working Group

Anesthesia - Dr. Ian Reid

Diagnostic Imaging - Dr. Sue Babensee

Emergency Medicine - Dr. Melissa Herr

Hospitalists - Dr. Stef Houde

Family Practice - Dr. Stef Houde

ICU - Dr. John Peachell

Internal Medicine - Dr. Heather Stefanison

Laboratory Medicine - Dr. Dennis Small

Obs/Gyn/Peds - Dr. Kathryn Hale

Psychiatry - Dr. Carolyn Stark

Surgery - Dr. Hilary Brotherhood

CME Coordinator - Dr. Melissa Herr

KBRH Chief of Staff - Dr. Sue Benzer

### Directors and Officers

President: Dr. Kathryn Hale

Vice President - Dr. Ian Sibbald

Treasurer - Dr. Carolyn Stark

Board Member - Dr. Sue Babensee

Board Member - Dr. Anne-Marie Baribeau

Board Member - Dr. Sasha Cihal

Board Member - Dr. Brian Garrett

Doctors of BC - Leah Jackson

KBPA Managing Director - Mona Mattei

---

## Heads of Department

Dept. of Family Practice - Dr. Stef  
Houde

Division of Hospitalists - Dr. Stef Houde

Dept. of Surgery - Dr. Anne Dobson  
Dept. of Psychiatry - Dr. Carolyn Stark  
Dept. of Internal Medicine - Dr. Heather Stefanison  
Dept. of Diagnostic Imaging - Dr. David Williams  
Dept. of Mat/Child - Dr. Ian Ferguson  
Dept. of Emergency Medicine - Dr. Melissa Herr  
Dept. of Anesthesia - Dr. Iain Reid  
Division of Critical Care - Dr. Scot Mountain  
Peri-Operative Medical Director - Dr. Seth Bitting

## KBPA Project List:

Do you have a great idea for a project?

We can help! Download the [project proposal template](#) and then contact us for support. You can also submit ideas online at <http://bit.ly/kb-bon>. We have a significant amount of funds to use over the winter, this is a great opportunity to make positive change at our hospital!

Many more projects on the go - [click here for more details on our website!](#)



## Questions? Feedback?

[mmattei@kbpa.ca](mailto:mmattei@kbpa.ca)

[tdias@kbpa.ca](mailto:tdias@kbpa.ca)

[kpegg@kbpa.ca](mailto:kpegg@kbpa.ca)

[pedney@kbpa.ca](mailto:pedney@kbpa.ca)



Kootenay Boundary Physicians Association

[www.kbpa.ca](http://www.kbpa.ca)

You are receiving this email as you are a member of the KBPA.

[Preferences](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)