



# Rural Continuing Medical Education Community Program

AN INITIATIVE OF THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL ISSUES (JSC)  
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## New Rural Initiative Supports In-Community Education

Launched in August 2019, the RCME Community Program is providing funding to eligible RSA communities across BC for collective medical education and/or team-based learning. The program has a team of skilled individuals embedded both in the RCCbc and in regional health authorities who are available to assist communities' transition into the new program, facilitate smooth and timely access to community funding, and develop processes and/or policies required to support locally driven RCME.

[Connect with the RCME Team](#) or email [rcme@rccbc.ca](mailto:rcme@rccbc.ca)

## Featured Community – Big White – Interior

Big White is a small resort community with only one physician, Dr. Mike Figurski. The community has one health clinic with no public health service or ambulance station. For years, Dr. Figurski has been organizing community-based education and professional development with the entire health team including ski patrol, volunteer fire department and clinic staff.

The new RCME community funding has enabled these locally driven sessions to continue. Dr. Figurski organizes a monthly CME event that generally includes 3 presenters that rotate between 3 groups and present 45-minute sessions on a topic of mutual interest. The group also enjoys pizza and socializing afterwards.

In February of this year, the evening entertained the following topics: drone rescue, VR testing for concussion and decubitus transport for concussion. The turnout for these events is always a big hit with the number of attendees sitting at approximately 40 people.



## Multi-Community Models for Collective Learning

One of the innovative components of the RCME Community Program is the flexibility it allows rural communities to come together in multi-community groupings. This structure allows groups to lay a collaborative foundation that sustainably supports CME and potentially other shared resources in the future. These multi-community models vary in their individual structures, often based on the strictures caused by geography and rurality.

The team has seen the following groupings or pods developed since the new program or continue on from previous arrangements:

- Island Region - Mount Waddington (Port Alice, Alert Bay, Port McNeill & Port Hardy)
- Interior Region – both the East Kootenay and the Kootenay Boundary Divisions of Family Practice are providing multi-community collective administration and coordination for CME. Princeton and Keremeos have joined together and will be hosting the CARE course in the fall.
- Northern Region – 18 communities have pooled their funding to support community and regional administration and coordination of CME at the health authority level with many communities going one step further and combining into smaller groupings such as Fort St. John and Hudson's Hope.

### **New funding is now available**

Specialist, Sub-specialty, Indigenous and Funding for Innovation (SPIFI) is a new initiative available to eligible groups of physicians living and working in RSA communities to plan and develop innovative community RCME opportunities not easily supported by RCME community funds.

We are pleased to announce that two SPIFI applications have already been approved! One supporting virtual simulation activity in Golden, BC, and the other supporting the intensivists (critical care) in Prince George, BC to come together to learn about their findings during the pandemic and develop structures and guidelines to support the Northern region!

[Click here to view the eligibility and apply now!](#)

### **Brand new rural Webinar Series from RCCbc**

**RCCbc** is committed to supporting you and your teams in the rapidly evolving COVID-19 pandemic landscape. We are launching a free rural CME webinar series featuring rural speakers who will present the latest rurally relevant CME, pearls, and tips to aid you as you care for your communities.

#### **BC Rural Health Conference: Webinar Series**

**<https://ubccpd.ca/courses/rhcwebinars>**

**May 13, 20, 27 | Wednesdays @ 7:00pm–8:30pm PDT | Online via Zoom**

**Up to 1.5 Mainpro+ credits per webinar**

**Register: <https://events.epl.com/rhcwebinars>**

**MAY 13: Acute Respiratory Distress: Approach and Management in the Suspected COVID-19 Patient**

**MAY 20: Delivering Culturally Safe Care During a Pandemic - Rural BC Success Stories**

**MAY 27: Ask Anything: Rural Emergency Topics during COVID-19**



### **University of British Columbia – Rural Continuing Professional Development – UBC RCPD**

The UBC RCPD Program offers rurally-specific continuing professional development programs that are community-based, interprofessional, engaging, interactive, and practical. In addition to multi-modal learning opportunities, RCPD conducts a variety of research and evaluation activities related to the provision of medicine in rural British Columbia.

The RCPD Program is committed to supporting the learning needs of physicians and other health care providers who practice in rural and remote areas of British Columbia. Our goal is to improve rural patient health by offering collaborative and innovative CPD to rural health care providers. Our work is guided by a Rural Medical Advisory Committee and is supported by the Rural Coordination Centre of BC.

Learn more: <https://ubccpd.ca/rural/about>

UBC RCPD is offering the following resources to provide support to rural physicians on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic:

[Rural COVID-19 Rounds](#) | [Indigenous Patient-led CPD](#) | [Rapid Evidence and Knowledge Translation \(REACT\)](#) for rural providers | [Coaching and Mentoring Program \(CAMP\)](#)

**UBC CPD**



CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
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