

2023 Northern BC Research and Quality Conference

Looking to the Future: Health in the North

Evaluation Results

Details

Theme: Looking to the Future: Health in the North

Sub-themes:

- Workforce Recovery & rebuilding
- Mental Health & Substance Use
- Cultural Safety and Health Equity
- Health & Environment
- Healthcare Across the Lifespan
- Indigenous Health & Wellness
- Innovative Healthcare, Technology, & Data Quality
- Team-Based Primary Care
- Co-Creating Healthcare for All (*New theme*)
- Accessibility to Healthcare (*New theme*)

Objectives:

1. Celebrate and share research, quality improvement, evaluation, and implementation of evidence in Northern and rural contexts.
2. Support the development of research, quality improvement, evaluation, patient centric research and evidence-informed practice.
3. Facilitate networking and knowledge sharing of all stakeholders, including patients.
4. Inspire new ideas, encourage diverse partnerships, and broaden the involvement of various stakeholders invested in the health of Northerners.

Dates: November 7 – 9, 2023

Location: University of Northern BC - Prince George Campus

SUMMARY

The Northern BC Research and Quality Conference 2023 edition, a co-sponsored event between Northern Health and UNBC via its Health Research Institute took place from November 7th to 9th 2023 at UNBC main campus. The conference is a direct result of a partnership amongst these two institutions who are committed to support research, evaluation, and quality improvement projects to improve health outcomes and the continuous formation of health professionals in the North.

The 2023 edition, whose title was *“Looking to the Future, health in the North”* was mainly an in-person event that brought participants from all northern regions as well as presenters and visitors from other parts of the province.

2023 Conference by the numbers:

200+	Registered
100+	Presenters
9	Workshops
37	Oral presentations
39	Poster presentations
2	Poster viewing sessions
8	Exhibitor booths



Picture 1. UNBC's Chancellor Elder Darlene McIntosh



Picture 2. Workshop activities

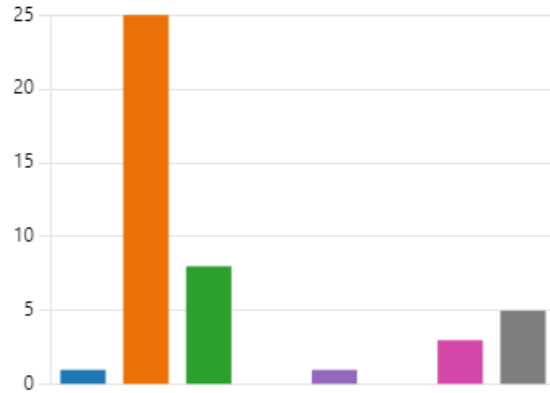


Picture 3. Members of the Planning and Organizing Committee

EVENT EVALUATION

1. Which of the following term/role best describes your primary affiliation?

● UNBC Faculty	1
● NH Staff (Non Clinical)	25
● NH Clinical Role	8
● Patient Partner	0
● UNBC Staff	1
● UNBC Faculty/Researcher	0
● UNBC Student	3
● Other	5



2. I learned about a research and quality improvement that could inform my work :

● Strongly Disagree	1
● Disagree	1
● Undecided/Neutral	1
● Agree	25
● Strongly Agree	15



3. I have obtained new skills or knowledge to build or enhance research, quality improvement, or policy opportunities:



● Strongly Disagree	1
● Disagree	0
● Undecided/Neutral	3
● Agree	23
● Strongly Agree	15



4. The conference was a valuable opportunity to network and make or strengthen existing contacts:

● Strongly Disagree	1
● Disagree	0
● Undecided/Neutral	1
● Agree	14
● Strongly Agree	27



5. I have better understanding of the resources that exist to support health research or quality improvement in Northern BC:

● Strongly Disagree	1
● Disagree	0
● Undecided/Neutral	4
● Agree	24
● Strongly Agree	14



1ST DAY WORKSHOPS

6. **Workshops** - If you were part of one or various workshops. How satisfied were you with the overall content, structure, and facilitation?

● Very satisfied	18
● Satisfied	14
● Neutral/Undecided	4
● Somewhat dissatisfied	0
● Very dissatisfied	0



7. What can be done to improve Workshops sessions in the future?

- Continue with the interactive nature of the workshops.
- Make them more interactive
- Make sure registration confirmation is sent to participants!
- Accessibility for virtual participants.
- Start on time
- More detailed descriptions of workshops at the time of registration. One that I registered for was what I expected and the other was not so much.
- One pager summary for participants, key resources/ references
- The workshops were good. For introverts... it is a way to contribute without speaking up in front of a group.
- More available seats!
- More content, less group participation
- It was way too loud in the hallways. It was disruptive for our sessions.
- The workshop I attended sought my feedback rather than provide me with a skill or new perspective/ knowledge.
- Ensure schedules are accurate –there was some confusion around when workshops started the first day.
- The registration – our workshop was not full although we were told it would be.
- More availability in number and in seating capacity, some of the workshops were full in registration time but had seating spaces in the end.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

8. **Concurrent Sessions-** If you attended one or various concurrent sessions. How satisfied were you with the quality of information presented?

● Very satisfied	23
● Satisfied	15
● Neutral/Undecided	1
● Somewhat dissatisfied	0
● Very dissatisfied	0



9. What can be done to improve Concurrent Sessions in the future?

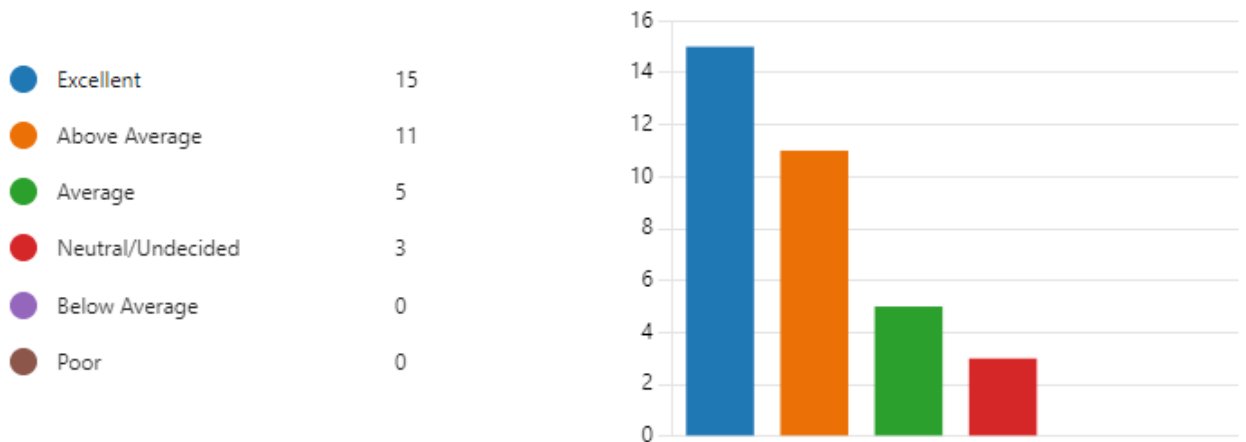
- More time
- Bigger space
- Slightly longer time - some presentations were cut short.
- Maybe a bit more time for questions and discussion.
- As a first-time presenter at this conference, I wasn't sure how to bring my presentation to use with the technology. I brought both a USB with the presentation on it and my own computer to plug-in if needed. The facilitator of the room indicated there was no preference and I could use either and so I chose to use my own computer and plug it in by an HDMI cord for presentation. However, a minute or two into the presentation I realized that the online participants couldn't see the presentation, but it was too late to backtrack to fix this. Knowing this ahead of time would've allowed me to select the option of loading my presentation via the USB with the existing room technology so that all attendees, both in person and virtual, could benefit from the presentation.
- Give more time to presenters. The concurrent session I attended was rushed. Speakers were given only 20 minutes to speak. They skipped information that would be valuable to me. Considering I came all the way from Fort St. John, I want to learn everything possible. I felt guilty asking all my questions as I felt I was taking up time.
- The variety was great. Not sure if sign up is needed...attended one that people walked away from because of no seating and another with very few attendees.
- The time was too short and too much content was put into small brackets of time. Perhaps fewer presenters with a sliver of additional time for each would make it so info could be absorbed.



- Maybe a bit longer, 3 x 30 minutes instead of 3 x 20. Had a few sessions go over and/or run into technical issues that ate into time.
- I enjoyed them, it was fun seeing all the work going on in Northern Health.
- Have fewer concurrent sessions. Two is good. More than that is tough when it is a relatively small conference.
- Reduce wasting time while setting up presentations.

KEYNOTE

10. **Keynote** - Overall, how would you rate the conference keynote: Decolonizing Health: Dismantling Oppression?

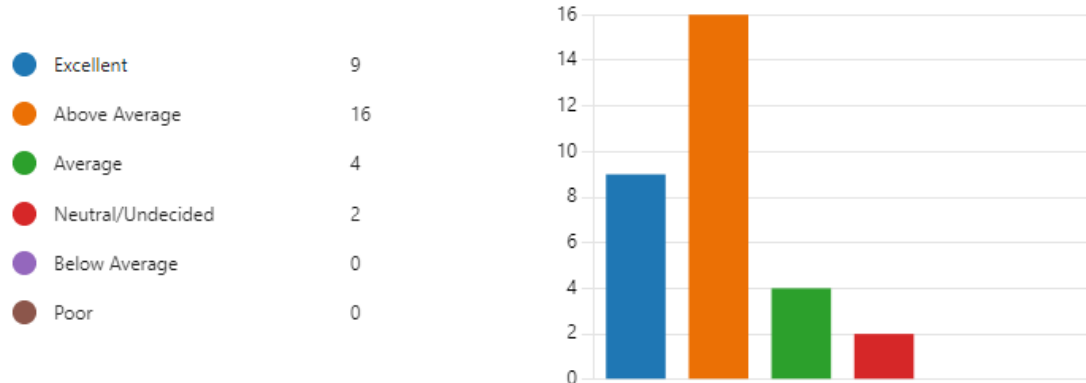


11. Do you have any comments about the Keynote session?

- Very engaging and great use of both printed slides and pictures of lived experiences to help deliver the messages.
- Informal time to discuss interest with the keynote speaker.

PLENARY

12. **Plenary** - Overall, how would you rate the plenary session: Cultural Safety and Anti-Indigenous Bias: Review and Discuss Current Recommendations and Standards



13. Do you have any comments about the Plenary session?

- More engagement and less reading off slides. I would love to hear more about the experience.
- I wish Dr. Aldred could have been in person.
- In person would be better, if possible, to increase engagement
- Some great information shared with important takeaways. There was a lot of information to digest and a lot of print on the slides. More pictures and lived experiences (case studies?) could have helped break that up a bit? Especially when not in person to deliver the content and help with audience engagement.
- It was a great presentation.
- Maybe more presenters.

14. Do you have any other comments in relation to Conference offerings such as special events: Reception, Poster Viewing, Exhibitors and or social event that you would like to provide any comment or opinion?

- Day 1 was so full of amazing workshops, but it would have been nice to have a bit of time to transition between the sessions and also time for a morning snack! I appreciated the transition times on day 2 and 3
- Thank you so much for this opportunity to share my work! I am so grateful for the organization of this conference.



- More examples of knowledge translation in action. Tangible examples and skills that influence the practice of varied clinicians. Too much of an emphasis on strength as some presentations ignored ongoing struggle and gaps in equity of their own initiatives.
- Earlier advertisement of the social event?
- Would love to see a display in photos by email of all the posters- such great work by all.
- Unpleasant when entering a room that hosted the lunch & learn session on the first day. Fresh red onions were sliced and on table for an hour or more and giving strong, offensive smell.
- There were lots of people who attended together and as a solo attendee I found it a bit difficult to break the ice.
- The evening poster viewing/ networking session would likely have been better off in the afternoon of the last day. It is too long of a day to attend all the way into the evenings on day 1.
- Perhaps the catering folks could leave some bus bins for plates and cups.
- Friendly and helpful organizing committee. A shorter first day in the future would be preferred.
- I was surprised to not see more health/wellness department managers/directors from area first nations or the FNHA.
- I enjoyed the poster night! Fun. I wish there was more leeway for students to attend more sessions (Classes during the week made it hard to full attend).
- Request for a poster, exhibit, and presentation slides repository for each conference.
- The online schedule was awful. You had to click into each session to see what was there. Would have been nice to see the whole schedule, or at least the concurrent sessions, on a table so we could see everything at once to make better decisions. Also, I presented, and I had to click into each session to find where my time was.
- More time for poster-viewing and exhibitor boots.






15. Please describe what was the most valuable part of the Conference to you.

- Northern context, skill-building workshops, networking
- Information on how science and technology (drone) has been a helpful tool to deliver medical equipment and medications to rural areas.
- Meeting others
- The secret pocket workshop was amazing.
- Meeting and networking with everyone
- Connecting with others, being able to share work, learning about projects and research.
- Networking



- Indigenous content and perspectives.
- Networking and learning by doing thru the workshops.
- Engaging with others outside of my work bubble and learn about liberating structures from Laura.
- The secret pocket workshop.
- The arts-based learning and decolonizing our education, research, and practice.
- Concurrent sessions and networking
- Opportunity to network and hear other work going on that might align with what I am doing in my own role.
- Making connections, the wonderful speakers, the organizing team! way to go!! and being in person at the awesome University!! really look forward to next time. Thank you!
- Networking & learning
- Meeting people.
- Liberating Structures concurrent session
- Networking
- Gained much deeper insight into the complexity of the health research activities in the north and valuable networking.
- Love the personal feel of the concurrent sessions and the poster sessions. Engaging 1 on 1 with presenters is always very appealing!
- Better understanding of NH
- Meeting people and building connections
- Networking
- I deeply appreciated the exhibitor booths and opportunities to discuss different projects going on; the most valuable however was all the networking opportunities for sure.
- The meals were awesome and made it easier to attend as a student.
- Networking, learning the breadth and interests of research and quality projects.
- Networking with NH staff with same interest/concern/challenges
- Concurrent presentations on active Quality improvement
- Meeting people
- Getting feedback
- Networking
- Seeing the work that is happening in the north and feeling more connected.
- Networking and meeting face to face.

16. Did the Conference meet its overall intent? *"This conference is a forum enhanced with knowledge, resources, and workshops to share health research, evaluation, quality improvement and evidence-based practice initiatives in the North. It is designed to profile Northern BC health research and improvement initiatives and will provide opportunities for participants to learn from each other"*

	Strongly Disagree	0
	Disagree	1
	Neutral	2
	Agree	21
	Strongly Agree	17



17. If interested, please elaborate:

- Everything was great, except the rush.
- I see how much of this work is directly applicable to the clinics I support and can bring what I learned back. E.g., penicillin de-labeling would make a quick and simple QI project for a family physician.
- I think this conference is very valuable for students and researchers -it was amazing not having to travel.
- Wonderful work, thank you for bringing the North together.

18. Do you have any suggestions for the 2025 Edition of the Northern BC Research and Quality Conference?

- Was great being at UNBC campus. The organizers/supports were awesome-so helpful!
- Allocate more time to the speakers.
- Open registration table a bit sooner.
- I think I can do a better job of supporting physician involvement and attendance at the conference. They would benefit so much.
- Continue being awesome.
- Ensure registration is confirmed and blocking it off in people's calendars.
- Shuttles from the hotel were great!
- Keeping a mainstream and theme on indigenous health and wellness. Would love to see more connections with nursing, children and youth.



- I wonder if the different QI stakeholders could each do a blurb/poster and there could be a QI corner where it's clear what the different supports are in the north. I'm one of them and I am still trying to figure that out!
- I appreciated the free cost to attend and the parking code. The decompression breaks in the middle were great too, so folks weren't running from one thing to another and the fact that most events were in the same buildings made running around even less of a worry. Please continue those. The food/ discount at the bookstore were also excellent. These small things make it a MUCH better experience holistically. Thank you!
- Keep in person, was great to connect that way!
- I think that the location was a bit challenging; I think signage might have helped. It wasn't clear how to connect to WIFI, many of us have to work, it would have been nice to have some workspaces that people could go to during the event.
- Advertise to lots of students. Maybe have some young researcher sessions at the end of day?
- Figure out the registration process so that people who sign up attend the workshop sessions.
- See comments on the schedule.
- Personally, I wasn't prepared for the Conference, and I think that next time I will know what to expect and really dig into the offerings.
- The MS Registration Form was a bit awkward to navigate and difficult to make changes to registration once submitted.
- Continue in person with virtual option for staff that cannot travel.

Patient Partners Evaluation Person and Family Engagement Committee

1. What was the main reason for your participation in the Person and Family Engagement Committee (PFEC)?

- To help shape a conference to reflect the needs of the North.
- To support the sharing of research and projects that improve the quality of health care services.
- To participate in a Research related event in Northern BC.

2. The objective for the Person and Family Engagement Committee was to work with the Planning team to organize the 2023 Northern BC Research and Quality Conference. Express your agreement if this objective was achieved?

● Complete Agreement	2
● Partial Agreement	1
● Neutral	0
● Partial disagreement	0
● Complete disagreement	0



3. In what specific ways you believe the PFEC Committee contributed with the overall conference organization?

- We made sure to give input regarding things we've experienced at other conferences. Things that might have not been considered unless a patient lens was given.
- I believe we serve as a reminder of the patients and families involved in and at the focal point of health care research and service delivery.
- Contribute with unique patients perspectives.

4. Was there any activity within this Committee that you enjoyed the most or gave you the most satisfaction? Please describe:

- General discussion with like-minded peers

- I enjoyed reviewing some of the abstract submissions. I appreciated having my thoughts and suggestions regarding conference logistics heard and valued.
- To be able to edit the Call for Abstract.

5. Reflecting on the Level of Engagement used by the IAP2 Spectrum of Participation, which of the dimension appropriately reflect your experience:

● Inform	0
● Consult	0
● Involve	1
● Collaborate	2
● Empower	0



6. What might be improved about the functioning of this Committee? E.g. Meeting frequencies, content, supports, activities etc.

- Some tasks during the event.
- It would have been nice to have met the folks on the actual planning committee to have a better sense of where we fit into the larger picture.

7. Overall, do you have any recommendations for the next edition of the Northern BC Research and Quality Conference?

- Continue with the good work of the PFEC group in 2025.
- Be prepared to offer more time for proposal submissions - those in active research need time to prepare thoughtful proposals. Have more detailed guidelines for proposal submissions and minimum requirements to be considered.

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4.67
Average Rating

