

*NMP Class of 2014 graduate
Dr. Michael Pascas is now an Internal
Medicine physician in Prince George.*

Northern Medical Programs Trust

A PARTNERSHIP OF NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA COMMUNITIES AND UNBC

UNBC UNIVERSITY OF
NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Annual Report 2020

Thank you for supporting health care education at UNBC and helping students with opportunities to learn more about rural practice and health service in the North.

2019 UNBC Family Nurse Practitioner master's program cohort

Putting down roots

Originally from Boston, Massachusetts, UBC Northern Medical Program (NMP) graduate Dr. Christina Boucher has made Northern B.C. her permanent home, and it all started in a Bella Coola medical clinic.

Christina moved to the remote town on the west coast of B.C. with her husband in 2004 and the experience changed her life. She became an office assistant for several physicians and as she notes, "It was this impression of rural living and seeing the impact of family doctors on the community that made me decide to pursue it as a career."

"Starting from when I first met with an advisor who helped me with course selection, the continual support that I received from UNBC and Northern Medical Program faculty and preceptors, and the Trust, inspired me. That supportive attitude is one of the reasons I stayed," says Christina.

In June 2018, she finished a two-year family practice residency in Prince George at the University Hospital of Northern British Columbia (UHNBC) and finally realized her dream. Almost fifteen years after she first arrived on B.C.'s west coast, Christina became a licensed family physician. She is now part of a shared Prince George family practice and also works half-time at the UHNBC emergency department.

"I am fortunate that I was able to experience life and medical care in the rural northern communities I visited during my medical school training. This has been invaluable in being able to relate to patients that come through the emergency department when they are transferred or travel from their home communities in other parts of Northern B.C. When patients have a sense that I have heard of or have been to their hometown, I think it helps us build a connection and gain rapport."



Christina went on to attend UNBC where she completed a psychology degree, and in the fall of 2012, she became part of the NMP Class of 2016. During her final year, Christina had the opportunity to see first-hand the many different aspects of rural medicine in the North. With support from the Northern Medical Programs Trust, she undertook a general surgery elective in Williams Lake, and family practice placements in Mackenzie and Vanderhoof. The latter placement was an eye-opener for Christina, helping her to understand more about rural cancer care.

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Nearly 60% of NMP graduates who have permanently settled into practice in B.C. work in northern and rural communities

74% of NMP grads who completed residency work in the Northern Medical Programs Trust region

30%
of Family Nurse Practitioner graduates work in the Northern B.C. region

Approx. 70% of UNBC Nursing bachelor's degree graduates obtain employment with Northern Health

60% of UNBC Family Nurse Practitioner graduates work in rural and remote communities

Since the inception of the Nursing bachelor's degree program at UNBC in 1994, 1,684 students have graduated

Since 2007, 78 students have graduated with a UNBC Family Nurse Practitioner master's degree

Since 2008, 348 students have graduated from the NMP and headed into two to seven years of residency training

More than \$1.7 million disbursed since 2006

More than 750 student awards provided to students participating in northern and rural clinical placements

In 2018 101 Awards were provided