Newsletter

Edition

2025

December

Kamloops first snow fall • Credited by QHS Staff

Q'wemtsin Health Society • 250.314.6732 130 Chilcotin Road Kamloops BC, V2H 1G3 qwemtsin.org



IN THIS ISSUE

Activity of the Season Ice Fishing

Recipe of the Month -Peppermint Bark

Introducing New Receptionist-Andrea Johnny

SIB Open House Invite

SIB Christmas Cookie Baking Community Invite

QHS Open House

SIB Diabetes Lucheon Report

Health Director Letter

Christmas Office Closure Notice

Christmas Coloring Page

Kamloops Christmas Events

Kamloops Optomitrist FNHA
Direct Billing List

Health Access Days

December Calendar

FNHA Mental Health Support

Kamloops Primary Care Services

Kamloops Community Resource List

Ice Fishing

Ice fishing supplies you will need:

- ice auger
- shovel, scoop
- ice pick
- cleats
- fishing tackle (ice fishing rods, lines, bait, lure)
- safety kit
- hut, shelter (optional)
- chairs, buckets.
- winter clothing (jacket, toque, gloves, scarf)

Ice fishing has been a winter activity for the Secwepemc people. Ice fishing is done when food is getting low, social events, or for ceremony.

Before going out on the lake make sure it is safe to do so, ensuring the water is frozen at least 4 inches thick for one person.

Using your auger you will drill a hole into the ice and use your scoop to scoop out any slush or ice floating in the hole.

Then you will lower your line into the hole with your ice fishing rod and wait for a fish to bite.



Peppermint Bark



Photo retrieved from the World Wide Web

Ingredients

5 regular-sized candy canes, or about 15 mini candy canes

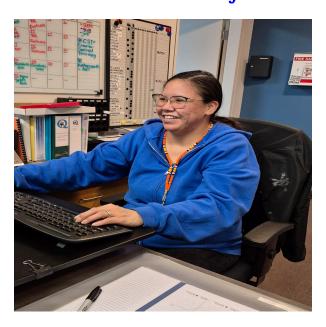
1 1/2 cups of white chocolate or dark chocolate (chips, wafers, or chopped up chocolate bars) 1/2 teaspoon peppermint extract

- 1. Prepare baking sheet, line with wax paper.
- 2. Crush Peppermint candy canes, place candy canes into a zip lock bag, close it, use a meat tenderizor or a rolling pin and smash the candy cane into desired size.
- 3. Melt the chocolate, place the chocolate into a heat proof bowl and place in the microwave and heat for 30 seconds at a time and stir until chocolate has melted. or place chocolate into a heat proof bowl over a simmering pot of water, making sure the water is not touching the bowl. stir until chocolate has melted.
- 4. Add the peppermint extract into the melting chocolate.
- 5. Spread the melted chocolate onto the lined baking sheet using a spatula to spread the chocolate.
- 6. Add the crushed peppermint
- 7. Freeze for 5-10 minutes or until hardened, break into desired pieces.





Introducing our Newest Receptionist Andrea Johnny



Andrea is the new Receptionist for Q'wemtsin Health Society, she will be one of the first people you see or talk to on the phone. Andrea hopes to grow and learn as much as she can working with Q'wemtsin Health Society. This is Andrea's first time being a part of the front line team and is enjoying it. She enjoys talking and meeting the clients, and loves that elders will stop and share stories or history of the area.

Andrea is an Adams Lake Indian Band member and grew up in Salmon Arm. She moved to Kamloops in 2007, were she continued her education and attended NVIT and received her Office Administration Certificate and has been working in the Administration field since then. She likes to stay active and enjoys riding her bike, going for walks and spending time with her family, she also enjoys binge watching Netflix or Amazon Prime shows and is always looking for new recommendations of shows to watch. Also, she loves jamming out to Spotify.



JOIN US AT OUR COMMUNITY **OPEN HOUSE!**

For more information contact Lee-Anne at QHS 250.373.2580 leeanne@qwemtsin.org





6





Diabetes Lunch & Learn

On December 3, 2025 Skeetchestn Health Centre had Diala in the office hosting a diabetes education luncheon, some topics discussed Diabetes Management, Nutrition, and Pharmaceuticals.



Thank you Big Sky Station for accommodating our lunch menu!

The turn out was great!

Lunch was fantastic!









Phone: 250.314.6732 130 Chilcotin Road Kamloops, BC V2H 1G3 Fax: 250.314.6742 qhs@qwemtsin.org qwemtsin.org

December 1, 2025

Weytk (Hello),

The Q'wemtsín Health Society office will be closed for regular business from December 22, 2025, to January 2, 2026. During this time, we will be providing essential services, and the nurses will be checking the phone messages and faxes regularly.

If you need to speak to a nurse, please leave a message at the front desk (not individual voicemails) as only the front desk messages will be retrieved. Please use our **nursing fax line 250-828-6738** to protect privacy when sending information to QHS.

Q'wemtsín Health Society will re-open for regular business on January 5, 2026. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 250-314-6732.

Merry Christmas to everyone and all the best in the New Year!

Colleen Lessmann

Health Director



Holiday Office Closure

Q'wemtsin Health Society & Skeetchestn Health Center will be closed during the Christmas Holiday Season

Dates Closed: Monday, December 22, 2025 to Friday, January 2, 2026

Reopened: Monday, January 5, 2026 for regular business hours

If you have any questions or concerns please contact QHS at 250.314.6732







Kamloops Festival of Trees

Nov 14, 2025 - Jan 5, 2026 | 2:00 pm - 10:00 pm | Delta Hotel Kamloops

Explore the uniquely decorated trees at Delta Hotel Kamloops and vote for your favourite—all in support of BC Children's Hospital.

Krampus Parade

Dec 6, 2025 | 4:00 pm - 9:00 pm | Riverside Park & Sandman Centre

Unlike your usual Santa parade, this one features jingling bells, shaggy fur, curved horns, and spooky masks. Join the Krampus crew as the parade winds through Riverside Park to kick off the Krampus Market at Sandman Arena.

NSBIA Community Holiday Festival

Dec 7, 2025 | 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm | Spirit Square at Yew Street

Celebrate the holidays at the annual Community Holiday Festival with the North Shore Business Improvement Association! Enjoy free Santa photos, live carols, hot chocolate, festive vendors, and the dazzling 19-foot Christmas tree light-up with fun for the whole family, including pets!

Wildlights at the BC Wildlife Park

Dec 12, 2025 - Jan 4, 2026 | 4:00 pm - 9:00 pm | Nightly

*Lights turn on at 5:00 pm | Closed Christmas Day

Enjoy Wildlights at BC Wildlife Park with Santa, Uncle Chris the Clown, and special appearances by Anna and Elsa for a magical family night out.

CPKC Holiday Train

Dec 18, 2025 | 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm | Sandman Centre Parking Lot

This year, the CPKC Holiday Train rolls into Kamloops with a free concert by the Barenaked Ladies. Enjoy the festive lights, live music, and community spirit while supporting the local food bank!

Breakfast with Santa

Dec 21, 2025 | 10:00am - 1:00pm | VENUE twelvefifty

Enjoy breakfast with Santa at VENUE twelvefifty in the Coast Hotel & Conference Centre, with gifts, family activities, and face painting, all supporting the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at RIH

To purchase tickets go to https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/breakfast-with-santatickets-1956903373669

Optometrist FNHA direct billing				
Name:	Address:	Phone:	Direct Billing	Direct Billing Additional Costs
Kamloops Family Vision Clinic	440 St Paul St, Kamloops, BC V2C 2/6	(250) 374-8755	Yes	\$40.00 additional patient pays for after coverage unless MSP pays the additional cost, any additional cost for perscipted eye wear after the coverage is patient portion.
	C 5N9	(250) 828-1554	Yes	\$43.00 additonal patient pays after covers for eye exam, any additional cost after cover for perscripted eye wear is patien portion
			>	\$31.00 patient portion after coverage for eye exam, unless msp pays for the raminaning cost, any additional cost after coverage is patient portion
Thompson Rivers Family Optometry	Thompson Rivers Family Optometry / 700 Tranquille Rd #60, Ramioops BC, 726 519	(250) 576-1965	55-	no personipod eye wear. no additional cost for eye exam. Any additonal cost after coverage for
Optiks Optometry	331 Victoria St, Kamloops, BC V2C 2A3	(250) 828-0252	Yes	perscripted eye wear is patient poriton.
North Shore Kamloops Optical				\$32.00-\$51.00 for exam after coverage, MSP maybe to cover the remaining cost. Maybe addittional cost for persciption eye wear after
Centre	750 Fortune Dr, Kamloops BC, V2B 2L2	(250) 376-2202	Yes	coverage
EViDoctore Kamloone	153 Sevmour St #202, Kamloons BC, V2C,2C7	(250) 372-7910	Yes	\$47.08 patient portion for the exam after coverage, MSP mabe able to cover reamining cost, any additional cost after coverage for perscripted eye wear is patiend portion.
Kamloops Vision Therapy		(236) 425-4494	Yes	after coverage patient may have a portion to depending on what the Dr bills for, after coverage for perscripted eye is patient pays.
				\$37.00 patient portion cost for eye exam after coverage, MSP maybe able
Fbata Optometry	12, 1380 Summit Dr, Kamloops BC, V2C 1T8	(250) 377-8875	Yes	to cover remaining cost or eye coannering accurate control of the perscripted eye wear is patien portion.
Optiks International - Victoria				no additional cost for eye exam, any additional cost after coverage for
Street	- 1	(250) 851-8992	Yes	perscipted eye wear patient pays.
Classic Evewpar Today	450 Lansdowne St Unit 203, Kamloops BC, V2C 173	(250) 374-3937	Yes	no additional cost for eye exam, any additional cost and cost eye.
	1180 Columbia St W Unit D105, Kamloops BC,		3	\$55.00 patient pays after coverage for exam, any additional cost after
IRIS Optometrists and Opticians	V2C 6R6	(250) 372-7108	Yes	coverage for perscipted eye wear patient pays.
Hampton David K Dr	360 Sevmour St. Kamloops BC, V2C 2G2	(250) 374-1145	Yes	no addditional cost for eye exam, any additional cost affer coverage for perscripted eyet wear patient pays.
Tailbioi Cavia v Ci				no additional cost for eye exam, any additional cost after coverage for
Dr. D. Gerry, Optometrist	360 Seymour St, Kamloops, BC V2C 2G2	(250) 374-2464	Yes	perscipted eye wear patient pays.
	1320 Trans - Canada Hwy #217, Kamloops, BC			no additional cost for eye exam, any additional cost after coverage for
Specsavers Aberdeen Mall	V1S 1J2	(778) 696-2470	Yes	perscipted eye wear patient pays.
Visions Wear Service	Eye Exam			
18 Years Old or Under: \$275 per calendar year or \$415 for high-index (+7.700 dioptre and above in one eye); Set based on their first purchase, over 18 Years Old: \$2.75 per 2 calendar years or \$415 for high-index (+7.700 dioptres and above in one eye); Set based on their first purchase.	18 Years Old or Under: \$100 per-calendaryear; Set based on their first claim. Over 18 Years Old: \$100 per 2 calendaryears; Set based on their first claim.			



CHIEF PHARMACY





HEALTH ACCESS DAYS

Dates Upcoming: October 30, November 13 & 27, December 4 & 18

Let's Talk Health!

Come learn about the pharmacy-level health care services now available through **Chief Louis Pharmacy – IDA**.

Meet with Lisa at Q'wemstin Health or chat with Alexa at the new Community-owned Pharmacy — whichever is easiest for you!

Drop in anytime between 9 AM and 12 PM — no appointment needed.



- Information on how to access healthcare supports through Plan W and FNHA (100% coverage for many products for First Nations with Status)
- Understanding the pharmacist's role as an accessible healthcare provider
- Promoting wellness through knowledge sharing between community members and pharmacists
- Access to Telemedicine services on-site
- 1:1 health counselling appointments
- Prescription refill arrangements and transfers upon request

Please note: the November 27 session will only be held at Chief Louis Pharmacy (Q'wemstin Health will not be available on that date).







#304 - 302 Yellowhead Hwy | 778-943-1640 |

chieflouispharmacy.ca







Photo Credited by QHS staff member

DECEMBER							
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
	DR	DR	DR	DR			
		CST	NP	FootCare			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
	DR	DR	DR	DR			
	CST		NP	Footcare			
	Footcare						
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
	DR	DR	NP	Footcare			
		CST					
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
				MERRY CHRISTMAS			
		OFFI	CE CLOS	ED			
28	29	30	31	HAPPY			
				NEW			
				YEAR			
		OFFI	CE CLOS	ED			

Legend: SIB - Purple / QHS - Blue / WPCIB - Green

CST = Cranioscacral Therapy NP = Naturopath Therapy



Mental Health Support



24 hour supports

Hope for Wellness Help Line offers immediate mental health counselling and crisis intervention by phone or online chat. Phone

(toll-free): 1-855-242-3310 Website: hopeforwellness.ca

KUU-US Crisis Line Society

provides crisis services for Indigenous people across BC. Phone (adults and Elders): 250-723-4050

Phone (Youth): 250-723-2040 Phone (toll-free): 1-800-588-8717 Website: www.kuu-uscrisisline.com

Métis Crisis Line is a service of Métis Nation British Columbia. Phone: 1-833-MétisBC (1-833-638-4722)

VictimLink BC Immediate 24 hours, 7 days a week, crisis support or victims of family or sexual violence. This service also provides informa-tion and referrals for all victims of crime. Phone: 1-800-563-0808 Email: VictimLinkBC@bc211.ca

9-8-8 National Suicide Crisis **Helpline** offers immediate support anytime for support in English or French.

1-800-SUICIDE offers support for those experiencing feelings of distress including thoughts of suicide. This phone line is available in over 140 languages. Phone: 1-800-784-2433

Indian Residential School supports

Indian Residential School (IRS) survivors and impacted family members can access supports directly from the IRS service providers listed below.

Adah Dene Healing Society

provides health and cultural supports. Phone: 250-996-3813 Email: nakazdli.elders@outlook.com

Carrier Sekani Family Services

provides health and cultural supports.

Phone: 250-567-2900 Ext. 2047 Email: slarocque@csfs.org

Gitanmaax Health

Phone: 250-842-6320 or Email: robert.ryan@gitanmaax-health.ca

Gitanyow Human Services

provides health and cultural supports.

Phone: 250-849-5288

Email: director@gitanyowhealth.ca

Indian Residential School Survivors

Society (IRSSS) is a partner with the FNHA in providing access to counselling, cultural and emotional support services to former students of services such as counselling, residential and day schools, and their families, regardless of status. Phone 604-985-4464 or (Lamathut Crisis Line Support 24/7 toll-free): 1-800-721-0066

Website: www.irsss.ca

Indian Residential School Crisis

Line is a national service for anyone experiencing pain or distress as a result of their residential school experience.

Phone (toll-free): 1-866-925-4419

Kispiox Health provides health and

cultural supports. Phone: 250-842-6236 Email:

tbaskin@anspayaxwhealth.ca

Nuu Chah Nulth Tribal Council

provides health and cultural supports.

Phone: 250-724-3939 or Email: richard.watts@nuuchahnulth.org

Okanagan Nation Alliance

provides health and cultural

Phone: 250-707-0095 Ext 228 Email: TCarpenter@syilx.org

Sik-E-Dakh Health Society

provides health and cultural supports.

Phone: 250-842-6876 Email: andrew@sikedakh.org

Tsow-Tun Le Lum Society

provides confidential outreach cultural supports and personal wellness programs.

Phone 250-390-3123 or (toll-free):

1-888-403-3123

Website: www.tsowtunlelum.org

Other culturally-safe supports

BC Alcohol & Drug Information Referral Service provides information about substance use treatments or supports in your area. Phone: 1-800-663-1441 Phone (Lower Mainland): 604-660-9382

BC Seniors' Distress Line offers support for Seniors or anyone who is concerned about an older adult. Phone: 604-872-1234

Foundry virtual access provincewide virtual services for youth under 24 and their caregivers. All services are free and confidential, and may be accessed through the Foundry BC app or chat. Phone: (1 833 308-6379) or video calls.

310 Mental Health Support offers emotional support, information and resources specific to mental health. This phone line is available in over 140 languages. Phone (no area code): 310-6789.

Youth supports

Child and Youth Mental Health (CYMH) Community-based teams

offer mental health counselling for children and youth and their families across BC from the Ministry of Children and Family Development. Virtual care is available by phone and online. Call your closest Child and Youth Mental Health clinic.

Kids Help Phone Get 24/7, immediate counselling, support, information and referrals. Phone: 1 800 668-6868 or Text: TALK to 686868. Texting support for adults available by texting TALK to 741741.

Youth in BC offers crisis support available for youth 25 and under. Website: youthinbc.com

Regional health authority mental health supports

The following regional health authority supports are available to all BC residents.

Fraser Health

Phone: 1-866-766-6960

Website:

https://www.fraser-health.ca/health-topics-a

Interior Health Region

Phone: 310-MHSU (6478)

Website:

https://www.interior-health.ca/health-and-v mental-health-and-substance-use/ mental-health/adult-mental-health-services

Island Health

Phone: 1-888-885-8824

Website: https://www.islandhealth.ca/our-services/mental-health-sub-

stance-use-services

Northern Health

Phone: 310-6789 Website:

https://www.northern-health.ca/services/m

Vancouver Coastal

Phone: 8-1-1

Website: https://www.vch.ca/en/ health-topics/mental-healthsubstance-use



Primary Care Services

In Person	 Urgent Primary Care and Learning Centre (250)314-2256 – phones turn on at 10 am daily 311 Columbia Street Open 10 am – 10 pm Must phone to make an appointment, no walk-in's
	 Kinetic Energy Medical Clinic (250)828-6637 450 Lansdowne St Suite 206 https://www.kamloopskineticenergy.com/medical-doctor Patient Registration begins at 7 am Monday – Friday. Must phone and leave a message to be added to the daybook for that day -No Walk-Ins Will start with a Phone Call appointment and may include a Face-to-face appointment if needed Able to fill out Driver's Medical Forms
	 Kleo's Pharmacy (778)765-1444 90b-1967 Trans Canada Hwy E Walk in Medical Clinic available in the pharmacy, access to Virtual Doctor
	 Ashcroft Urgent and Primary Care Centre (250)453-2211 Located in the Ashcroft Community Health Centre - 700 Ash-Cache Creek Hwy Open 7 days a week, 8:00 am – 8:00 pm
Virtual	Avee Health (Online Dr.) • www.avee.health/booking
	 Kipp-Mallery iMedicine Services -Landmark Location (226) 930-6500 207-755 McGill Road Monday to Friday 9:00 am – 5:30 pm Phone to book an appointment Virtual or telephone appointments
Virtual	Northshore Pharmacy and Care Clinic • (250)376-9991 • https://northshorepharmacy.ca/ • Monday to Saturday 9:00 am – 5:30 pm, Sunday and Holidays 9:00 am – 10:00 am • Virtual appointments in the pharmacy

must be willing to switch to using their pharmacist
Enhanced Care Clinic (Go to Doctors.ca) • https://www.enhancedcare.ca/online-booking/ • Location/Services, click "Virtual/Phone Appointment by Godoctor.ca" and location "British Columbia" • virtual/phone appointments
FNHA Dr of the Day • 1-855-344-3800 • 7 days a week, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm • All First Nations and their families • https://www.fnha.ca/what-we-do/ehealth/virtual-doctor-of-the-day
TIA Virtual Health Clinic Book online: Tiahealth.com Virtual or Telephone appointments
Virtual Physicians at Health Link Call 811 HealthLink BC virtual physicians are available to 8-1-1 callers after assessment by one of our registered nurses. If the nurse determines that further medical assessment by a doctor would help you get the best advice on when and where you should seek care, they may refer you to your family doctor or nurse practitioner, a health provider in your community or one of our virtual physicians.
Rocket Doctor • Virtual Services • Book online: https://rocketdoctor.ca/online-doctor-bc/ • Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
VivaCare Telehealth • Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 9:00 pm, Saturday – Sunday • Book online: https://vivacare.ca/telehealth-online-doctor/ • Virtual or telehealth appointments available

Resource Numbers



Emergency Assistance		Non-Emergancy Services	
Ambulance/Fire/Police	911	Tk'emlúps Detachment	250-314-1800
Childrens Protective Services	1-800-663-9122	Tk'emlúps Bylaw	
Kids Helpline	1-800-668-6868	Tk'emlúps Bylaw Cell	
Kids Text Helpline	68686868	Kamloops City Detachment	
Interior Crisis Line Network			
First Nations emergancy services			
Youth Peace Program			
Kamloops Urgent Response Team			
Kamloops Mental Health Intake		Nurse Line	
Kamloops R.C.M.P. Victim Services	250-828-3000	THOISE EITE	
Kamloops Y Emergency Services:			
Y Women's Emergency Shelter	(text)250-682-7931	Support Lines	
Children Who Witness Abuse	250-376-7800	Narcotics Anonymous	1-800-414-0296
Victim Services	250-320-3110	Phoenix Centre	250-374-4684
		Raven Program	
Aboriginal Services		Sage Health Centre	250-374-6551
Q'wemtsin Health Society	250-314-6732	Smokers Health Line	1-877-455-2233
Urban Native Health Clinic			
		Substance Information & Referral Service	1-800-663-1441
Secwepemc Child and Family Services:		Mental Health & Information Support	310-6789
153 Koootenay way	250-314-9669	Kamloops Sexual Assault Counciling Center	250-372-0179
285 Seymour Street	250-461-7237	Anti Violence Hotline	1-888-974-7278
Toll Free	1-866-314-9669	Victim Link BC (multilingual)	1-800-563-0808
Aboriginal Crisis Response Services:			
Toll Free			
Children & Youth			
Elders & Adults	250-723-4050		
		North Shore Health Science Centre	250-312-3280
Metis Crisis Response Servise:			
Toll Free	1-833-638-4722	Devel Juland Hamital	
		Royal Inland Hospital	050 074 5444
Kuu-us Crisis Line Society		Information	
Adults		Admitting	
Youth		Emergency	250-314-2289
Toll Free	1-800-588-8717		
	050 554 4557	Indigenous Patient Navigator (RIH)	
Aboriginal Training & Employment Centre	250-554-4556	W	1-877-288-5688
Ashcroft Training & Employment Program	250-453-0093	1 1 6	
Cultural Support Counselling	1-888-403-3123	·	230 331 7 100
Hope for Wellness			
Kamloops Aboriginal Friendship Society			
Native Youth Awareness Centre			
Kamloops Native Housing Society			
Le7 te Melamin Health Society			
Native Court Worker		, , , ,	
Secwepemc Cultural Education Society			
Shuswap Nation Tribal Council			
Tsow-tun Le Lum (helping House) Society	250-390-3123		
First Nations Health Authority			
Health Benefits (Toll Free)	1-855-550-5454		
Toll Free			
Email			