

# MMU News



## Quarterly Updates for BC's Mobile Medical Unit

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### Inside this Issue

- 2013/14: Looking back
- Renovations complete in Kitimat
- 2015 Canada Winter Games in PG
- MMU site assessments
- Facility Updates
- Clinical updates
- 2014/15 deployment schedule

## 200 days on the road—looking back on 2013/14

This newsletter marks the closing of the MMU's busiest year to date, with exactly 200 days logged on the road between April 1, 2013 and March 31, 2014. As we look back on the year we celebrate many milestones, including the MMU's maiden trip to Northern Health Authority, first partnership to provide care on First Nations' land, and our longest deployment to date (to name a few!)

The MMU would like to extend a big **THANK YOU** to its partners and stakeholders across the province who helped to make this year a successful one, including our Advisory Committee members, as well as all those who contributed to deployment planning and operations.

We look forward to another great year in 2014/15, with opportunities for continued development of the MMU as a provincial program.

**Note regarding 2013/14 Annual Report:** the 2013/14 annual report will be available in June 2014.

## Newly-renovated ER opens in Kitimat

On November 9th, 2013 the MMU embarked on its longest—and coldest—deployment since the 2010 Winter Olympic & Paralympic Games. For three months the MMU supported Kitimat General Hospital (KGH) while its ER underwent capital renovation. This support enabled staff to work free of construction disruptions, and also allowed the renovation to be completed expeditiously. On February 21, 2014 ER operations at KGH officially moved from the MMU into the newly renovated space—which included the creation of an observation room, and new clinical workstation. An official opening ceremony of the new ER was held on March 18.

The MMU is now safely back in its warehouse in Delta—thanks to the driving skills of our truck drivers at A&B Shuttle who expertly navigated the winter roads with the vehicles.



Grand re-opening of Kitimat ER on March 18 following the MMU's longest-ever deployment.  
Photo Credit: Cameron Orr, Kitimat Northern

## 2015 Planning: PG to welcome Canada Winter Games



The MMU set-up at UHNBC on February 28, 2014. Photo credit: Eryn Collins

where it will provide surge support for the community of Prince George (PG) during the Canada Winter Games. Taking place February 13-March 1, 2015 the games will bring 2,350 athletes, and more than 5000 coaches, officials, volunteers, and spectators to PG.

The deployment will be in support of Northern Health and, in preparation, recent return from Kitimat afforded the MMU an important opportunity to stop in PG for a test set-up at UHNBC. The visit proved to be an invaluable exercise in logistics planning. After experiencing temperatures sub  $-30^{\circ}\text{C}$ , for instance, important areas for facility improvement were identified that will allow the MMU to better support patient care in extreme cold temperatures. Some of these improvements are already in progress, and others will be completed over the course of the year. The visit also provided an opportunity for hospital staff and other Games stakeholders to tour the MMU.

In February 2015, the MMU will be set-up at the University Hospital of Northern British Columbia (UHNBC),

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BRITISH COLUMBIA'S  
Mobile Medical Unit



## Fraser Health Site Assessments & Planning



Map of hospitals in Fraser Health. Image credit: Fraser Health Authority, [www.fraserhealth.ca](http://www.fraserhealth.ca)

MMU planned deployment activities in Fraser Health (FHA) are taking on a different form this year. While the MMU will still consider physical deployment of the unit to FHA in 2014/15 at the request of the health authority, the primary focus will be conducting assessments of all FHA hospital sites, and subsequently developing resources for both FHA and MMU

personnel, should MMU need to deploy to any of those sites in the future.

This initiative is a debrief action item following the November 2012 ER flood that closed Surrey Memorial Hospital's ER for 10 days. At that time, the MMU deployed to support the facility's temporary urgent care center set-up at the Jim Pattison Outpatient Care and Surgical Centre.

The site assessments, which kicked off at

Eagle Ridge Hospital on March 14, involve in-person visits by MMU staff to all FHA hospitals to gather facility/logistical and clinical information about the sites.

Following completion of these assessments, at least one parking configuration at each site, as well as potential for connection to shore power, IT integration, and other important facility and clinical characteristics will have been identified.

Formal reports for each site are being compiled following these assessments, and will serve to identify mutual support requirements. This information is invaluable to have on-file, for both the MMU and health authority personnel, in the event of urgent deployment request. Reports will be shared with the individual sites, as well as FHA HEMBC personnel.

**Interested site assessments in your health authority?** Contact us at [info.bcmму@phsa.ca](mailto:info.bcmму@phsa.ca)

## Facility Updates

The MMU is a complex facility to maintain, with many preventative maintenance requirements, as well as opportunities for continuous improvement. Downtime between major deployments is, therefore, essential. Since arriving back in the warehouse on March 1, the MMU has been undergoing maintenance following its busy deployment year, which began in Pemberton on March 21, 2013. Unless there is an emergency request, the MMU will not deploy until June 2013, its first scheduled trip of the 2014/15 season.

Important maintenance and upgrades currently taking place on the MMU include:

- Maintenance on the hydraulics of the hospital's sliding/expanding walls;
- Major upgrades to MMU IT connectivity, which is essential to support seamless uplink to health authority networks;
- Servicing of the MMU's 100 kW generators, including installation of built-in heaters to withstand extreme cold; and
- Annual vehicle safety inspections (all tractors and trailers associated with the unit).

## Clinical Updates

### New Team Member

Many of you will be aware that the MMU has developed a team of casual clinical employees over the past year. This team provides a broad expertise in varying clinical disciplines. Please join us in welcoming our newest team member, **Alex Wong**. Alex is a critical care nurse, and brings experience in pediatrics to our team. Alex is also familiar with the MMU, having worked two rotations in the unit while in Whistler during the 2010 Winter Games.

### Clinical Capability

On-going evaluation of clinical equipment is part of a continuous improvement process for the MMU. This includes identifying capital equipment requests that could significantly enhance MMU service delivery. Current request for capital equipment include the procurement of a **medium-fidelity simulation mannequin** for education delivery; as well as a new **x-ray machine with digital read capability** which would better align with the standard for imaging equipment that is now appearing in fixed facilities.

## 2014/15 Deployment Schedule

Deployment planning for the 2014/15 year is well under way, with the MMU's calendar already tentatively booked for planned deployments through 2015. Travel will kick-off mid-June with a trip to Interior Health.

As word spreads around the province about the MMU, requests are coming earlier and earlier each year. If you are considering the MMU for a deployment, please engage our team early—this is especially true for renovation-type deployments.

Next issue—July 2014!