



VILLAGE OF  
**VALEMOUNT**

*Let the mountains move you*

Valemount, 25 July 2023 – The Village of Valemount is pleased to announce the recent purchase, and partnership with Northern Health, to acquire a property dedicated to staff housing. This collaborative effort aims to address the critical need for accessible and affordable housing options for healthcare professionals, essential workers and those working for the community.

Recognizing the significant challenges faced by staff in securing suitable housing, the Village of Valemount and Northern Health have both contributed to acquire a property that will provide stable accommodation for employees. The initiative represents a significant milestone in the ongoing commitment to support the local workforce and enhance the quality of life in Valemount.

The new property, located on 6th Avenue within the Village of Valemount downtown, offers one small step in addressing the overall shortage of affordable housing in the community. With this acquisition, the Village and Northern Health are taking proactive steps to ensure that healthcare providers and other essential workers can find suitable housing within close proximity to their workplace. This is expected to not only contribute to staff retention but also enable workers to focus on delivering high-quality healthcare services to the community.

Mayor Torgerson expressed enthusiasm for the partnership, stating, “We are delighted to collaborate with Northern Health to secure this property for staff housing. Our community greatly values the dedicated individuals who work tirelessly to care for the health and well-being of our residents. This joint effort demonstrates our commitment to supporting our workforce and creating a sustainable future for Valemount.”

Northern Health’s contribution to this housing acquisition is from the Northern Health Housing Supports pilot program, funding announced by the Ministry of Health in September 2021 to help address acute and endemic HHR challenges in a number of northern communities including in the Robson Valley. Local housing can support both temporary (agency) staff, and newly-hired permanent staff while they make long-term housing arrangements. This helps not only to reduce use of area hotels, but also ensures the temporary accommodations are more home-like, which can encourage staff to return to or stay in the community.

“Housing plays a crucial role in attracting and retaining skilled professionals,” said Kim Nordli, Northern Health’s Robson Valley Health Services Administrator. “By working with the Village of Valemount, we can alleviate the housing pressures faced by our staff, allowing them to focus on their vital work of providing quality healthcare services to our community.”

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The collaboration between the Village of Valemount and Northern Health underscores the power of partnerships in finding innovative solutions to community challenges. By leveraging their respective strengths and resources, they are working towards creating a supportive environment for essential workers and enhancing the overall livability of Valemount. The Village will own the lands and Northern Health will hold long term lease space within the property. This purchase also creates future opportunities as the lot is adjacent to a municipally owned parcel.

For media inquiries, please contact:

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**Background:**

**About Village of Valemount:** The Village of Valemount is a vibrant community nestled in the scenic Robson Valley of British Columbia. Known for its breathtaking natural beauty, the Village is committed to providing an exceptional quality of life for its residents and visitors, with a strong emphasis on community development and sustainability.

**About Northern Health:** Northern Health is responsible for the delivery of healthcare services across northern British Columbia. As one of the province's five regional health authorities, Northern Health is dedicated to improving the health and well-being of the population it serves, ensuring access to high-quality healthcare services and promoting wellness in the communities it serves.

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