

History – Community First Health Co-op

- 2002 - change in B. C. Healthcare – removal of services and disengagement in decision-making process in Health Care
- SOS – Save Our Services is formed and supported by the community.
- Community Initiatives, Alternative Funding Committee is formed to explore or create a pro-active approach to health care in our community.
- With support from all sectors and a history of innovative, community-based programs in Nelson, the leadership felt that Nelson had the capacity, motivation, and expertise to develop a community-based health care delivery model.
- Exploration led to a discussion that a health co-op was the route to go.
- August 2002 – Nelson and Area Health Co-op Planning Committee was formed.
- With support from community and provincial sources, the Committee held 2 meetings – one with 24 Business Leaders and one with 150 members of the public.
- B.C. Cooperative Association sent 3 experts to meet with the Planning Council and facilitate 2 days of workshops with 18 participants. The focus was on primary health, co-operative concepts, visioning and goal setting.
- Community First Health Co-op was the name chosen.
- Senior health was chosen as the initial focus for the Co-op, as they were the most disenfranchised with the changes.
- On February 27, 2003, the Community First Health Co-op was incorporated at an open house with a standing room only crowd.
- Membership drive began.
- May 30, 2003 the first AGM, with over 200 people, was held. The first board was elected and were asked to submit a proposal to build and operate a complex care and assisted-living facility to replace Mt. Saint Francis. This was not accepted.
- In 2005 the Board made a proposal to turn the 10th Street Campus residences into affordable apartments for seniors – this was also not accepted.
- In 2007 the decision was made to purchase the old Forestry Building at 518 Lake Street and to create the Nelson and Area Wellness and Education Centre.