

DEASE LAKE, British Columbia

Dease Lake and the surrounding **Tahltan** communities of **Iskut** and **Telegraph Creek** are located in the far northwest of British Columbia. The community of **Dease Lake** is 65 kms north of Iskut on Highway 37, the **Stewart-Cassiar Highway**, at the junction of the road to Telegraph Creek and 257 kms south of Watson Lake in the Yukon. It is home of the Stikine River, one of the last free-flowing wilderness rivers in North America.

Dease Lake and area are known for their abundance of magnificent wildlife, and their breathtaking landscapes of northern BC. The region offers some of the most astounding scenery in the entire province and is the center point for a variety of recreational activities including water rafting, fishing, hunting, & camping.

Dease Lake is home to the **Stikine Health Centre** which provides emergency services for everyone coming through their doors. The clinic services a population of about 2000 from **Dease Lake, Iskut, Telegraph Creek**, and the surrounding area with a primarily Tahltan First Nations community. That number increases during the summer due to outlying mining camps and tourists passing through to the Yukon and Alaska.

Community Characteristics

Population	229 (2021 Census) Serves ~2000
Access to the Community	Dease Lake has a small recently upgraded airport, however presently there are no commercial flights. The local mine flies in & out of Dease Lake & can sometimes help with physician transportation. Locums usually fly to Terrace, Smithers, or Whitehorse & drive to Dease Lake. RGPLP pays for the vehicle rental & fuel costs for driving into/out of the community. Once in the community you can walk to most places (Health Centre, grocery store, community hall, Allan Lake, Dease Lake). Clinic vehicles are used for outreach clinics in Iskut & Telegraph Creek during the week. Clinic vehicles can be borrowed when a physician is on call if they do not have a rental vehicle.
Things to Do	The area is rich with outdoor activities. Situated on the Arctic Pacific Divide, Dease Lake offers some of the province's very best fishing, hunting, hiking, camping and boating. In the winter there is snow showing, cross-country skiing, ice fishing as well as a local ice-skating rink. You can easily be on call while enjoying some of the best year-round outdoor recreation in the province.
Local activities	We host regular fun social & community events depending on the time of year. We often hold barbecues or dinner parties at our Health Centre & encourage all locums to attend. Fireworks to fishing derbies!

Locum Support

Welcome/Orientation Process	Time is booked off on the first day for new locums for orientation on site at the Stikine Health Centre. The other local physician on site will orient the new locum & the Nurse manager provides additional support.
Accommodation	Clean & fully furnished locum housing is provided and equipped with a full kitchen, TV, private phone and WIFI. Depending on which house is available there are 1-2 rooms provided. Some locum houses have access to a small work-out area as well (treadmill / weights). The clinic also has a work-out facility that can be accessed 24/7.



Practice Environment

Health Authority	<u>Northern Health</u>
Specialists	Visiting Internal Medicine & Psychiatry to each community. We also have a Dentist that visits regularly. Our closest referral hospital has support from Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, General Surgery, Orthopedics, Obstetrics/Gynecology, Urology, Plastic Surgery, Otolaryngology, Anesthesia & Radiology.
GP Opportunities & Locum Coverage	<u>Health Match BC & Locums for Rural BC *REQUIRED*</u> Supported by the <u>Pacific Northwest Locum Network</u>
Inter-professional team	We have a local mental health services team as well as outreach psychiatry. We have in house lab & X-Ray in Dease Lake. PT is generally virtual, otherwise in person PT / OT is accessed in person in Terrace, BC. We access to virtual wound care, Dietician and Nutritionist.
EMR System	MOIS. We book off ample time for new locums for MOIS training if required. There is excellent training and support from local physicians as well as virtual IT.
Practice environment	Monday to Friday 8:30-4:30. Dease Lake has 2-3 MD's, 1-3 RNs and a combined lab / X-Ray technician. Each MD has their own exam room. There is one large emergency resuscitation room as well as a separate isolation negative pressure room. We do outreach clinics to Iskut (1 day/week) and Telegraph Creek (2 days/week with one day off).
Facilities	We are a Provincial Diagnostic and Treatment Centre (we have no inpatient beds and do not provide planned obstetrical intrapartum care). We do not admit any patients at the Stikine Health Centre. Any patient requiring admission or investigation at higher level of care must be transferred. We provide family medicine and emergency services to remote northern BC. We have high quality bedside ultrasonography, X-Ray, ECG, point of care in house lab testing as well as a new blood bank that can be used for emergencies. Our resuscitation / emergency room is fully equipped with advanced airway equipment, transport ventilator, defibrillator, AirVo, among other emergency equipment.
Emergency Services	We have 1-3 paramedics on site at any given time. BC & Air Ambulance Medevacs can be performed from our airport. We have a small local paramedic team in Dease Lake. Patient Transfer Network / BC EHS help with coordinating emergency transfers from our community which usually go to Terrace (Mill's Memorial Hospital) depending on the clinical A
Rural Subsidiary Agreement Designation	



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