



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Distribution

We are announcing that Saplings Mental Health Services is becoming a part of Fort St. John Association for Community Living, Expanding Integrated Services for Northeast BC

Fort St. John, BC — December 5th, 2025 — The Fort St. John Association for Community Living (FSJACL), a trusted provider of services for individuals with developmental disabilities and complex needs for 65 years, is proud to announce that Saplings Mental Health Services, a respected clinical mental health provider in the region, is becoming a part of its organization. This marks an important step toward strengthening and diversifying community services for individuals and families across Northeast British Columbia.

For 65 years, FSJACL has delivered inclusive, person-centred supports to individuals with developmental disabilities and complex needs.

Saplings Mental Health Services was founded by local clinicians to meet a growing need for accessible, community-based mental-health supports for children and youth. Their programs offer early intervention, counselling, and skills development that have transformed how families access care in our region.

By integrating Saplings into FSJACL, the organizations will provide a continuum of care—from childhood and youth mental-health support through to adult community-living programs—ensuring individuals receive seamless, person-centered services at every stage of life.

“This new development is about strengthening inclusion by supporting the whole community. Saplings has done incredible work meeting youth where they are. Together, we can expand that support and help people thrive from childhood into adulthood.” Jordan Soggie, CEO FSJACL

Benefits of Saplings joining FSJACL

- Stronger, more diverse service offerings

The combined organization will now deliver the most comprehensive ranges of clinical and support services in the region—from disability and community inclusion programs to mental health counselling and therapeutic services. This diversity ensures families can access multiple supports through a single, integrated provider.

- Improved service coordination and continuity of care

By blending long-established disability services with specialized clinical expertise, FSJACL is enhancing its ability to offer seamless, wrap-around supports. Individuals will benefit from improved communication between service teams, more efficient referrals, and personalized plans that address both developmental and mental health needs.

- Increased capacity to serve more people

This means greater organizational capacity, enabling more residents of the greater Fort St. John community to access timely, high quality mental healthcare. The combined staffing, resources, and expertise will help reduce service gaps and wait times while bridging gaps between resources.

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fsjacl.com

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“Joining FSJACL allows Saplings to keep growing while maintaining our commitment to youth and families. It gives us stability, shared resources, and the ability to reach further without changing who we are.” Laura Honey, Director/Co-founder Saplings

“This is about partnership. By combining teams, we can keep doing the work we love—only stronger.” Julia Hintermeister, Director/Co-founder Saplings

The integration process will unfold over the coming months, with no disruption to existing programs or staff. Both organizations remain committed to transparency, collaboration, and community engagement throughout the transition.

About FSJ Association for Community Living

For 65 years FSJACL has provided services in the area within and surrounding the community of Fort St. John, BC. Our mission is to support individuals with developmental disabilities and complex needs achieve full and meaningful lives in our community.

By providing resources and services to individuals and families, we hope one day to see the following vision fully realized: Individuals with diverse abilities are recognized and included as a vital and contributing part of the community. We are all connected. Everyone belongs. – fsjacl.com

About Saplings Mental Health Services.

Saplings Mental Health Services strives to meet the mental health needs of the next generation at the community level. We are here to collaborate with service providers, stakeholders and community members who are working with children and youth in almost any capacity. The Saplings team is passionate about ensuring children and youth mental health is being addressed at this critical time. --saplingsmentalhealth.com

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