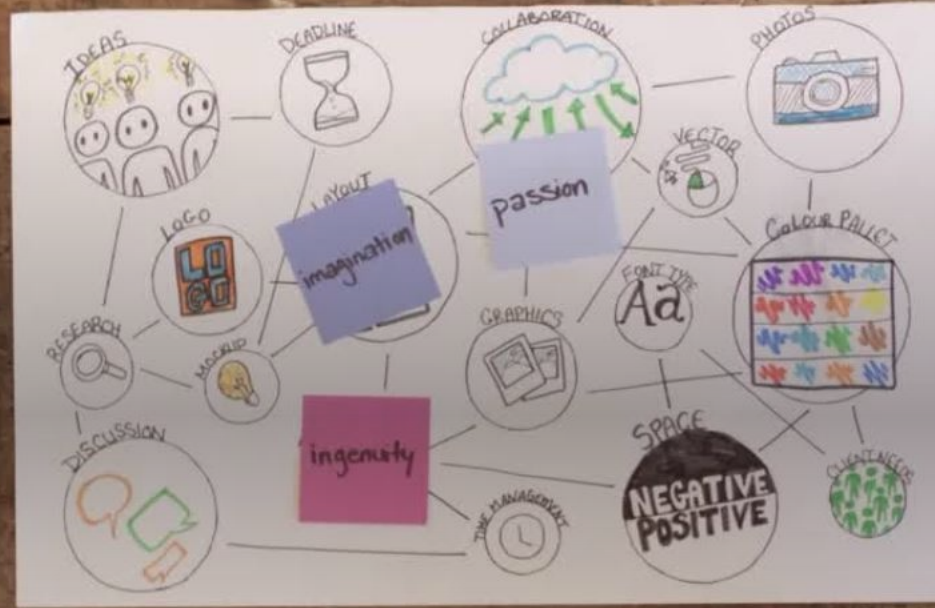


Bridging Communities and Classrooms in Occupational Therapy Education in a Distributed Learning Delivery Model



Dr. Elisha Williams (PhD, BScOT), Tanya Fawkes (BA, MOT), and Katie Lee Bunting (MscOT, OT, PhD Candidate)
University of British Columbia, Canada

How big is British Columbia?

- 5.7 Million People
- 944,735 square kilometres
- 18.2 Million People in Greater Bangkok (+2.6 Million tourists)
- 71.6 Million overall

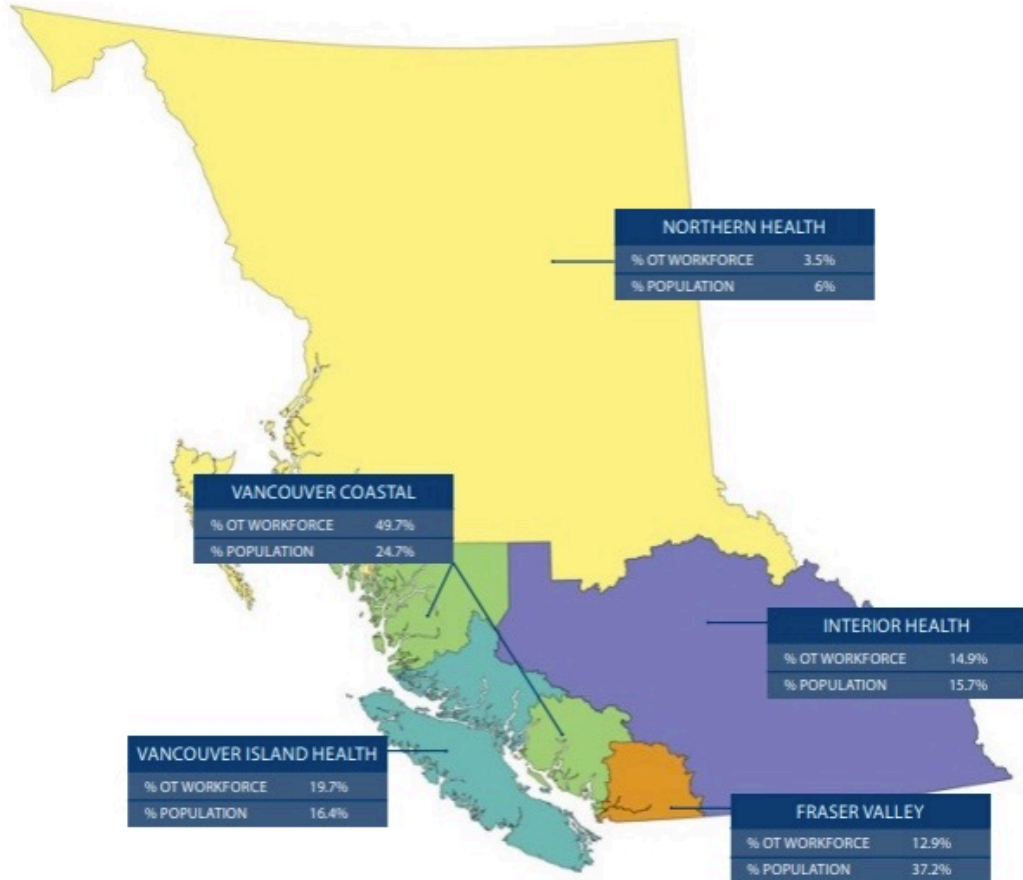


How big is British Columbia?

- 5.7 Million People
- 944,735 square kilometres
- There are approximately 6 people per square km (compare to 96 in Spain or 279 for the UK)

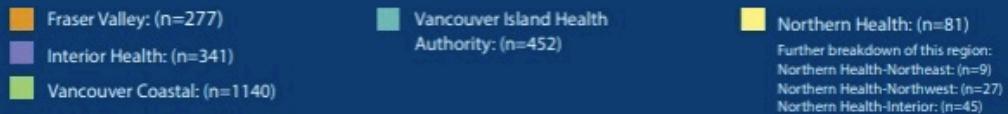



BC Occupational Therapist Distribution September 2017'
 (Primary Region of Employment)



Why Distributed Ed?

- The Northern and Fraser Valley Regions have significantly fewer per capita OTs than the other regions of the province
- The goal is to educate them in the places that need them most so they will stay to work in those places





Distributed Sites Background and Operation

- First Distributed site started in the Northern region in the fall 2022; Fraser followed in 2023
- COVID advanced technology usage across all sectors, including health and education delivery
- UBC provided technology across all three sites (\$1.2 Million CAD)
 - Microphones, Zoom connectivity, recording devices, smart cameras and other classroom tech equipment to connect all 3 sites for synchronous learning
- Classroom support and IT support required at each site and a centralized UBC site

Class Design

- Developing engagement across distributed sites
 - Lectures delivered from all sites
 - Class Time bridged vs unbridged
 - Class activities



Community Partner Evolution





Success Factors

- Cross-site team communication
- Community-based partnerships
- Technology infrastructure



Take-Home Messages

Place and team-based learning are important in student development in professional programs.

Distributed learning models can enhance geographic equity and community engagement in healthcare education.



Khop Khun