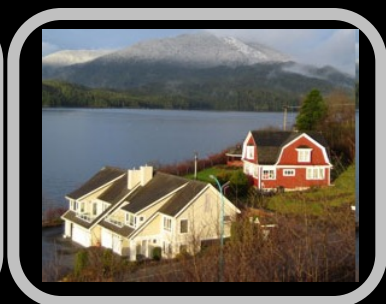




A photograph of a hospital room. In the center is a patient bed with white linens and a pillow. To the left is a desk with a computer monitor and keyboard. A window is visible in the background, and a small table with a lamp is next to the bed. The room has a wooden headboard and a framed picture on the wall.



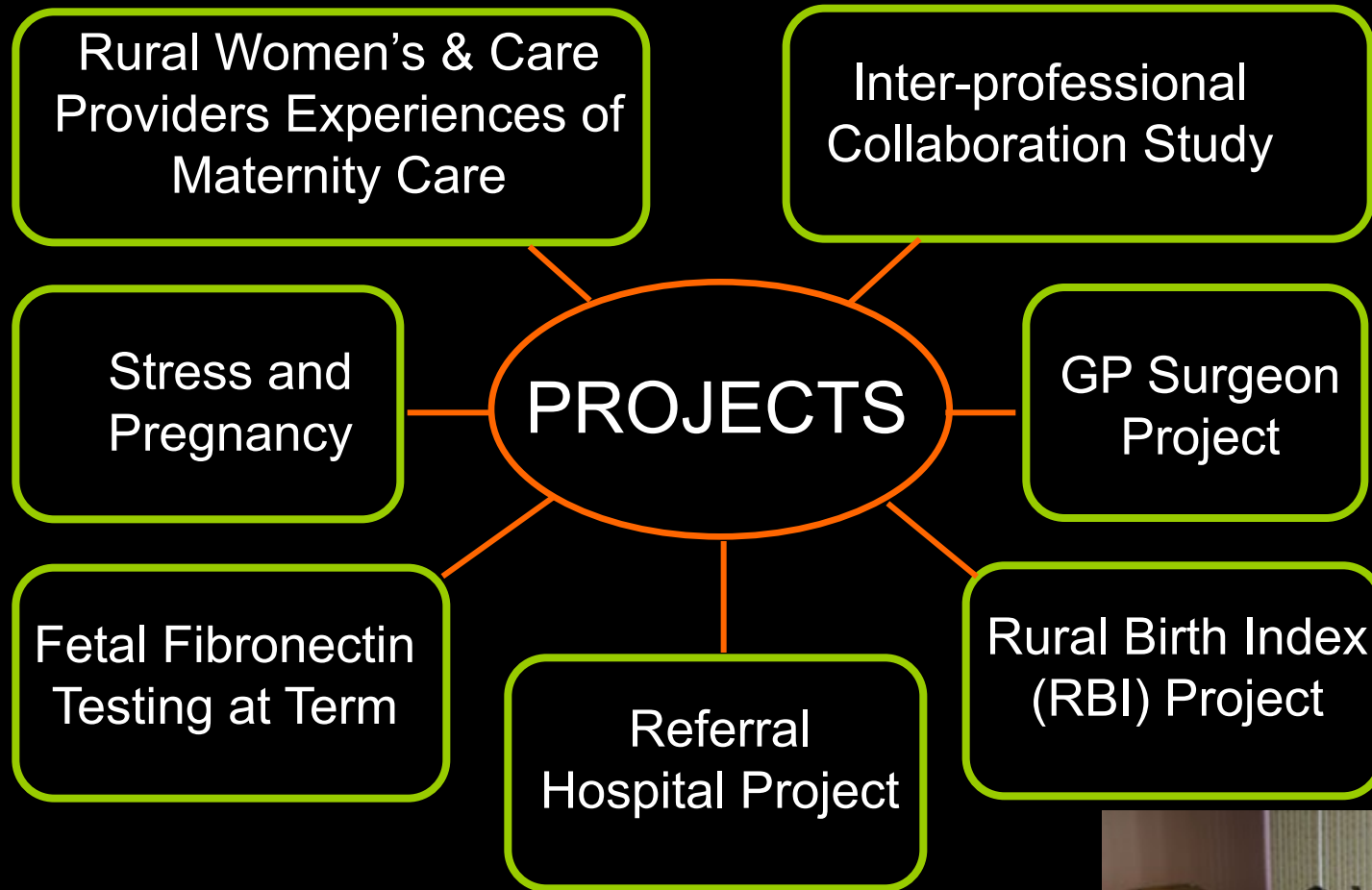
# Centre for Rural Health Research

- Collaborative Team
  - Academic and community-based researchers
  - Policy makers
  - Administrators
  - Key stakeholders

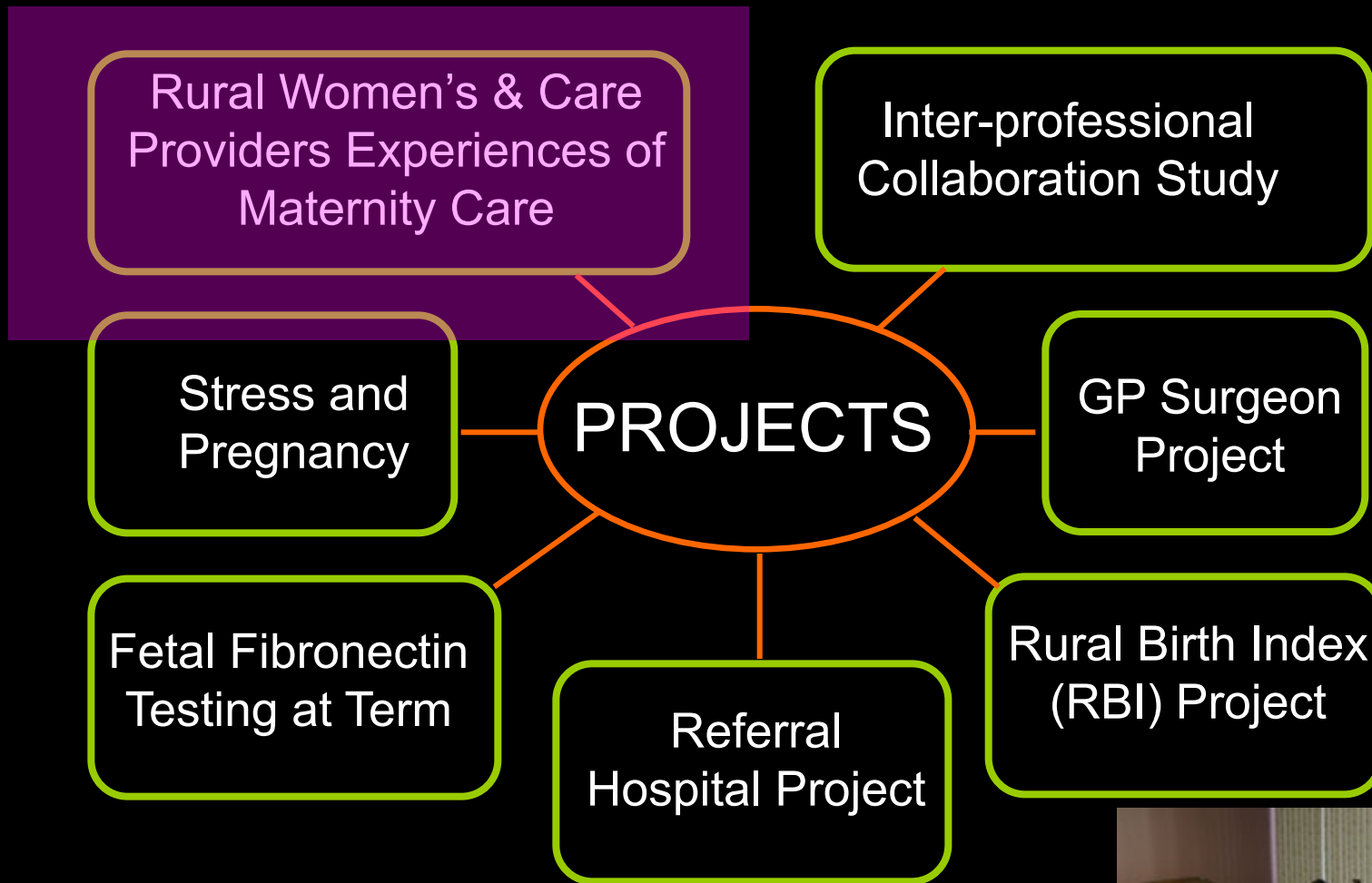


Team arriving at Bella Coola

# Centre for Rural Health Research



# Centre for Rural Health Research



- By the end of presentation, audience could hopefully...
  1. Be informed about rural maternity 'crisis' in BC
  2. Appreciate the challenges faced by women in rural BC
  3. Appreciate the difficulties faced by local leaders and care providers

# INTRODUCTION

- Rural maternity care services are in decline in Canada
- In BC, over 20 closures since 2000



Nakusp

# INTRODUCTION

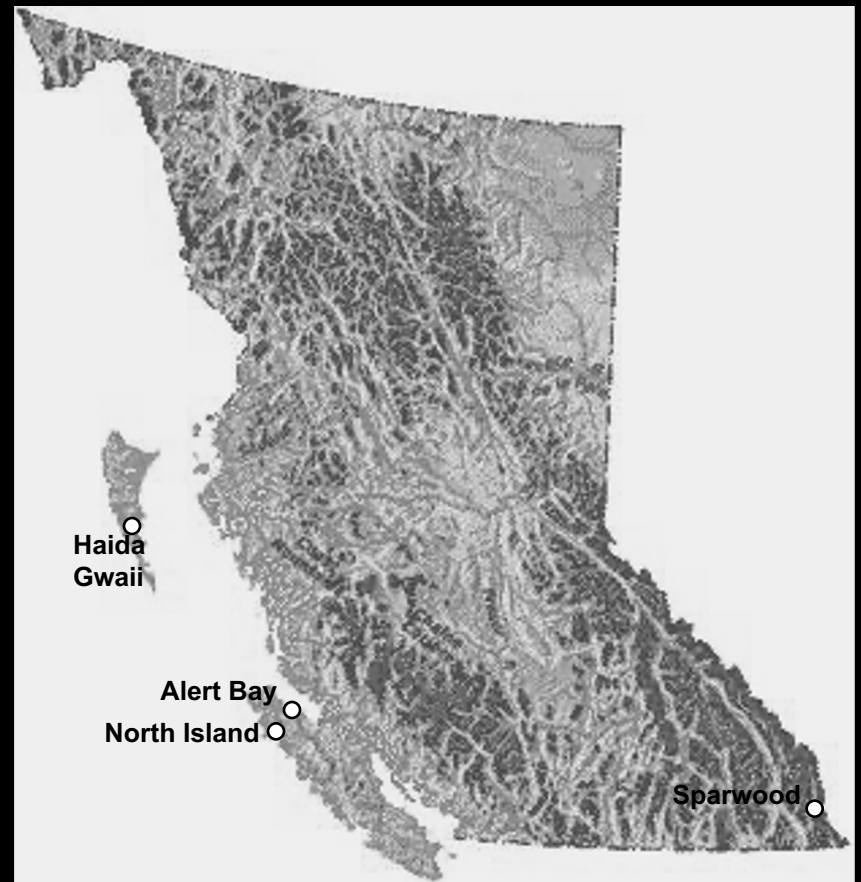
- For the women...
  - have to travel outside of their communities to access intrapartum and/or prenatal services.
- For care providers...
  - feel unsupported?
  - sense of loss?

How is the change being experienced by the women and the care providers?

# METHODS

- Approach:  
qualitative, community  
based
  - Focus group / group  
interview
  - One-on-one interview

- Sites:





# METHODS

- Participants:

<b>Women</b>	<b>Care Providers, Local Leaders, Administrators</b>
Group interview (25 participants)	Group interview (5 participants)
One-on-one unstructured (20 participants)	One-on-one semi-structured (30 participants)

# METHODS

- Analysis:
  - Transcribing (audio → text)
  - Coding into “themes”
  - QSR NU\*DIST software

# RESULTS

## Importance of Local Birth

- Comfort of Local Birth
- Positive Community Experience

Women's Experience  
of Maternity Care

# RESULTS

## Importance of Local Birth

- Comfort of Local Birth
- Positive Community Experience

## Women's Experience of Maternity Care

*“The hospital sent me a card and thanked me, because there had been some major tragedy in this community just before and that was really sad for a passing away and all this crazy stuff, and so it was really a huge thing for the hospital to experience some positive life coming in.” (Town 4 – 010)*



# RESULTS

## Importance of Local Birth

- Comfort of Local Birth
- Positive Community Experience

## Challenges for Having Local Birth

- Lack of continuity of care
- 'Scared' by consent form
- Influence of care providers
- Considerations of risk

## Women's Experience of Maternity Care

# RESULTS

## Importance of Local Birth

- Comfort of Local Birth
- Positive Community Experience

## Challenges for Having Local Birth

- Lack of continuity of care
- 'Scared' by consent form
- Influence of care providers
- Considerations of risk

## Women's Experience of Maternity Care

*"They don't have an... ICU... they don't have any of that type of stuff here in case something is wrong with her; they have to medivac her out and that just takes too long... the baby could be like dead by then." (Town 2 – 002)*

# RESULTS

## Importance of Local Birth

- Comfort of Local Birth
- Positive Community Experience

## Challenges for Having Local Birth

- Lack of continuity of care
- 'Scared' by consent form
- Influence of care providers
- Considerations of risk

## Women's Experience of Maternity Care

## Experience in Referral Hospitals

- Family issue
- Financial cost
- Stress of birth

# RESULTS

## Importance of Local Birth

- Comfort of Local Birth
- Positive Community Experience

## Challenges for Having Local Birth

- Lack of continuity of care
- 'Scared' by consent form
- Influence of care providers
- Considerations of risk

## Women's Experience of Maternity Care

*"I think the biggest one was not having my family. That was really that was one of the sacrifices we made that probably had the biggest impact."  
(Town 2 – 016)*

## Experience in Referral Hospitals

- Family issue
- Financial cost
- Stress of birth



# RESULTS

## Importance of Local Birth

- Comfort of Local Birth
- Positive Community Experience

## Challenges for Having Local Birth

- Lack of continuity of care  
'Scared' by consent form
- Influence of care providers
- Considerations of risk

## Women's Experience of Maternity Care

## Expressed Desires

- Access to midwifery care

## Experience in Referral Hospitals

- Stress of birth
- Family issue
- Financial cost

# RESULTS

## Importance of Local Birth

- Community ethos

## Care Providers, Local Leaders, and Administrators Experience of Maternity Care

## Challenges for Providing Local Maternity Care

- Difficulties in maintaining competence/skills
- Safety issues
  - Emergency transport
- Fear or bad outcome
  - Litigation
  - Loss of license

## Dilemma

- Birth will always happen

# RESULTS

## Importance of Local Birth

- Community ethos

## Care Providers, Local Leaders, and Administrators Experience of Maternity Care

## Challenges for Providing Local Maternity Care

- Difficulties in maintaining competence/skills
- Safety issues
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  - Litigation
  - Loss of license

## Dilemma

- Birth will always happen

*“As long as you have women of child bearing age [here], you are potentially going to be having women having their babies here... I don't know how many doctors would be willing, to get a court order and force a woman to travel off island if she was refusing to do so.” (Town 2 – 023 : 507--514)*

# RESULTS

## Importance of Local Birth

- Community ethos

## Challenges for Providing Local Maternity Care

- Difficulties in maintaining competence/skills
- Safety issues
  - Emergency transport
- Fear or bad outcome
  - Litigation
  - Loss of license

## Care Providers, Local Leaders, and Administrators Experience of Maternity Care

## Effect in job satisfaction

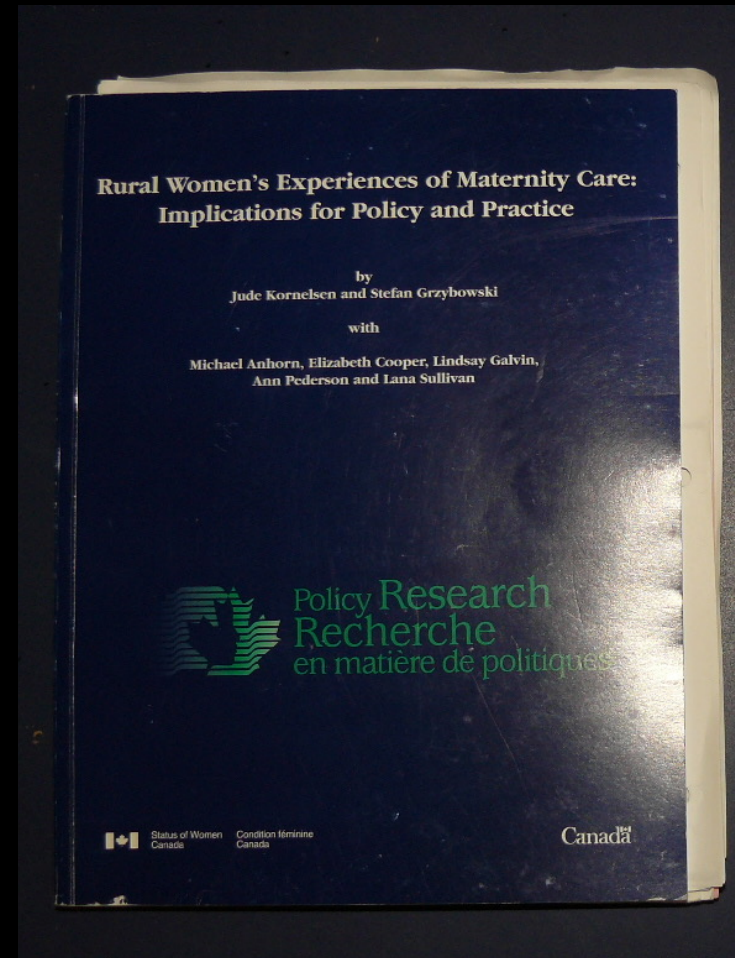
- Maternity care one of “highlights” of practice

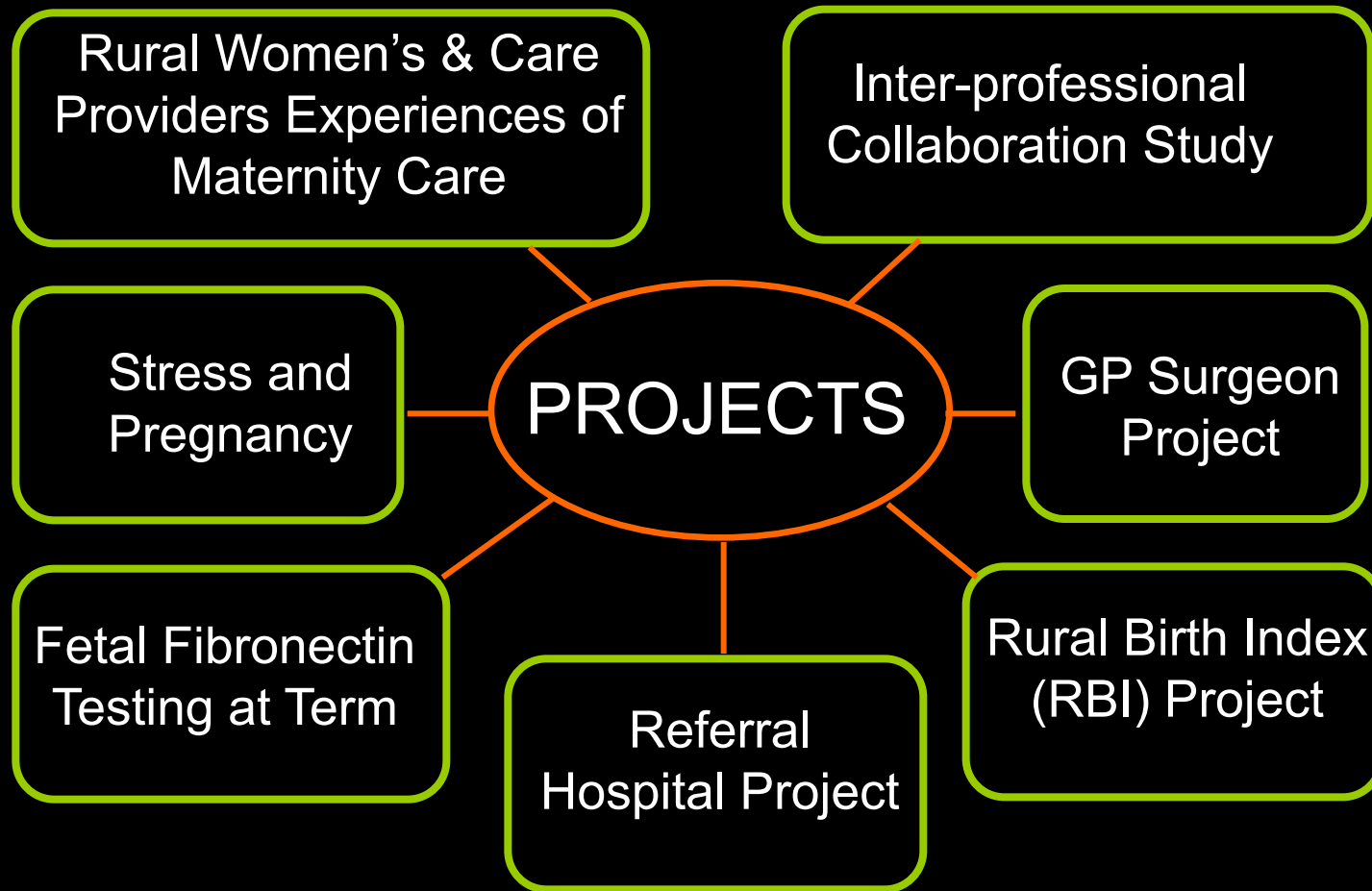
## Dilemma

- Birth will always happen

# WHAT CAN BE DONE

- Recommendations:
  - Submitted in report





- Has this presentation helped you to...
  1. Be informed about rural maternity 'crisis' in BC
  2. Appreciate the challenges faced by women in rural BC
  3. Appreciate the difficulties faced by local leaders and care providers

# THANK YOU

## Question?

<http://www.ruralmatresearch.net/index.htm>

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