



“ I was placed at Peace River’s Community Health Centre in acute care for my final practicum. Peace River is a town with a population of 6,842 people. There are many small towns and First Nations reserves around the area as well. Because of Peace River’s location, it is one of the more central

Northern Alberta hospitals, meaning we see patients from all over the Peace Region. I had an excellent rural hospital experience and challenged myself in ways that other clinicals could not give me. I am the type of student that likes to be challenged and gets bored easily by day to day

routine. Peace River's hospital challenged me because I seen a diverse group of patients. One minute I would be working with a geriatric patient, the next I would be caring for a laboring mother. I also worked with addictions, multiple cultures, and was heavily involved in working with interdisciplinary teams. On nights, there is only one Registered Nurse in the emergency department, which meant that we would go to Emerg to assist the nurse during emergency situations. For example, I worked with a team of nurses and physicians to care for an unconscious patient. Working in a rural hospital changed me as a person and as a nurse in the most positive



way I could have imagined. I worked with the most supportive staff that was understanding that I would not know everything right away. As a student, the staff made me feel like I was a part of the team. I now feel more equipped to work as a graduate nurse and am excited to be working in Peace River's acute care again. I would recommend rural nursing to any nursing student considering a rural placement. It is a great way to broaden your skills and develop a strong sense of community. ”

Paige Machuk (FoN Class of 2017)

