



Press Release

For Immediate Release

Nurse Michelle Andrews makes it her mission to take care of others

ALBERTON, PEI, March 31, 2018 – The purpose of the PEI French Health Network’s Étoile Santé campaign is to promote, recruit and make people aware of health professionals who offer French-language services on Prince Edward Island. The Health Network is pleased to announce that this month’s Étoile Santé is nurse Michelle Andrews.

Since 2005, Michelle Andrews has been working at the Western Hospital in Alberton, where she loves having the opportunity to speak French. “The French language is very important to me and my family, and I enjoy speaking it. My daughter attends École Pierre-Chiasson, and we converse in French at home.”

This quality is part of the assets she brings to the table when on duty at Western Hospital’s emergency department. “I mainly work nights, running the emergency department with a paramedic within a collaborative model of emergency services,” explains Michelle. “We greet the individuals seeking assistance and can call a physician if a case demands medical expertise. I love what I do; my work requires a sense of responsibility, good communication skills to evaluate each situation, and the ability to make quick decisions in the best interest of the patient. When necessary, you must also be able to describe the situation as accurately as possible to the doctor on call so he can recommend the proper treatment. I live in the area and know the residents fairly well, which helps me determine if I should be asking questions in French or in English.”

During one of Michelle’s night shifts, a local resident who was taking care of her grandson decided to take him to the emergency department in Alberton after he suffered a health problem. “I immediately saw that they were Francophones, and I know that being able to speak French to me came as a big relief to the grandmother,” recalls Michelle. To show her appreciation for the quality services delivered by the nurse, the grandmother submitted Michelle’s name to the Étoile Santé campaign.

Michelle’s job involves a wide range of tasks. “I’m often called upon to help out in the unit of hospitalized patients or to assist if a French-speaking person is needed,” she says. “It’s essential for patients to be clearly understood; it can make a world of difference in someone’s health.” The nurse is very proud of her nomination as one of Prince Edward Island’s Étoiles Santé.

“I make it my mission to treat my patients well and take good care of them. It’s a very demanding career, but it’s also helped me take care of myself. It stimulates me and makes me very happy,” says the nurse, who does indeed exude an infectious joie de vivre.

Michelle Andrews's contact information can be found in the bilingual service provider directory at www.santeipe.ca/repertoire. Anyone can nominate health professionals who actively offer French language health services in Prince Edward Island for a chance to win \$500. For more information on the Étoile Santé campaign or to nominate someone directly on the PEIFHN's Web site, go to www.santeipe.ca.

The PEI French Health Network is a non-profit organization that collaborates with various partners in order to improve access to quality French-Language health services and programs for Prince Edward Island's Acadian and Francophone population. The organization brings together representatives from target community groups, educational facilities, health professionals, health service managers and the provincial government. It is also one of the 16 networks that make up the Société Santé en français. The PEI French Health Network is funded by Health Canada within the framework of the Roadmap for Canada's Official Languages 2013-2018: Education, Immigration, Communities.

-30-

Photo: Michelle Andrews

Media contact:

Patricia Richard
902-854-7444
parichard@gov.pe.ca