



Press Release

For immediate distribution

A new bilingual dietitian for Prince Edward Island Francophones

CHARLOTTETOWN, PEI, January 5 2015 – After noting that the Prince Edward Island Francophone community needed the services of a bilingual dietitian, the PEI French Health Network (PEIFHN) entered into a partnership with the Department of Health and Wellness, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development as well as with the PEI Healthy Eating Alliance (PEIHEA). These partners are pleased to announce that bilingual dietitian Melissa Arsenault has recently been hired to serve the Acadian and Francophone population of Prince Edward Island.

“Government has a long standing relationship with the PEI Healthy Eating Alliance,” said Health and Wellness Minister Doug Currie. “I am pleased that the Alliance now is able to provide more extensive support to Francophone Islanders through the addition of a full time bilingual registered dietitian.”

“These partnerships will benefit French language school nutrition policies, breakfast programs, and nutrition education, along with supporting Early Years Centers,” said Education and Early Childhood Development Minister, Alan McIsaac. “It’s great to see this continuing collaboration benefit Island children and students.”

“The PEI Healthy Eating Alliance is very pleased to provide the PEI Acadian and Francophone communities with important healthy eating information and programs, added Joy Shinn, Director of the Healthy Eating Alliance. This new funding will strengthen our long standing partnership with the PEI French Health Network and the PEI government in our efforts to champion optimal health for all Islanders.”

According to Élise Arsenault, director of the PEIFHN, “The Network is in constant collaboration with various partners to improve access to quality health programs and services in French. The hiring of this new bilingual dietitian is a collaborative effort that will benefit the Prince Edward Island Acadian and Francophone community.”

Melissa Arsenault started working for the PEI Healthy Eating Alliance on December 10. She is from Abram-Village and in May received her Bachelor of Science degree majoring in food and nutrition at UPEI. Her role will mainly be to serve as a resource for the six schools of the French Language School Board as well as the French-language school and community centres and daycares on the Island.

To consult the directory of health professionals who provide services in French in Prince Edward Island, go to www.santeipe.ca/repertoire. Francophone or Francophile students from Prince Edward Island who are currently training in the field of health at a post-secondary institution are encouraged to have their name included in the health student directory at www.santeipe.ca/etudiants-en-sante to discover the various training and employment opportunities Prince Edward Island has to offer.

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 16 networks that make up the Société Santé en français.

-30-

Photo : Élise Arsenault, director of the PEIFHN; Jennifer Taylor, president of the PEIHEA; Melissa Arsenault, new bilingual dietitian; Joy Shinn, director of the PEIHEA and Patricia Richard, executive director of the PEIFHN.

Information:

PEI French Health Network
Élise Arsenault or Patricia Richard
902-854-7444

Department of Health and Wellness
Connie McNeill
(902) 368-5610

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
Katie MacDonald
902-314-3996

PEI Healthy Eating Alliance
Joy Shinn
902-620-3672