



Press Release

For immediate distribution

Two \$1,500 bursaries for students in the health field

WELLINGTON, PEI — March 6, 2015 – The PEI French Health Network (PEIFHN) is pleased to be offering two \$1,500 bursaries to Francophone or Francophile students from Prince Edward Island in post-secondary programs in the field of health for the 2015-2016 academic year.

“In addition to having the chance to win \$1,500 to assist with their tuition, the students will be automatically added to the PEIFHN health student data base. This way, the Network can inform them of any training and employment opportunities on Prince Edward Island in hopes of keeping or drawing our youth to the Island to offer French language health care services,” said Élise Arsenault, PEIFHN Executive Director.

It’s the first time the PEIFHN offers these bursaries, hoping to increase entries in its data base. This PEIFHN tool recently provided results with the hiring of bilingual dietician Melissa Arsenault by the PEI Healthy Eating Alliance. “This partner was looking for a bilingual nutritionist and, after consulting our student directory, was able to find a recent graduate from UPEI’s nutrition program,” added Arsenault.

Every year, the PEIFHN shares its list of bilingual students with the Recruitment and Retention Secretariat so that it can inform students of training and employment opportunities on PEI. “It is a pleasure for us to partner with the PEIFHN on this initiative. The Recruitment and Retention Secretariat under the Department of Health and Wellness often has positions that may be hard to fill. The initiative of the PEIFHN will be very useful for the staff of the Secretariat. Filling bilingual positions is often more challenging due to a limited pool of French speaking candidates. We look forward to collaborating on the project and hope that Islanders with the ability to speak French who are pursuing a career in the health care field will participate in this initiative,” said Marney MacKinnon, Manager of Health Recruitment and Retention.

One of the bursaries will be awarded to a first year student starting a program in the field of health in a postsecondary institution in the 2015-2016 academic year. The other will be awarded to a student who has already started a post-secondary program in the field of health and will continue in the 2015-2016 academic year.

Interested students have until May 31 to fill out the short participation form on the PEIFHN Web site at www.santeipe.ca (click on *Étudiants en santé*). To be eligible, the student must be a permanent resident of Prince Edward Island (hold a PEI health card); be registered in a postsecondary health program (in French or in English); be fluent in French and accept to be added to the student database to be kept abreast of any training or employment opportunities on the Island.

The bursaries will be drawn in early June 2015 among all submissions received.

For more information on the bursaries or on the student directory, please contact Patricia Richard by calling 902-854-7444 or by sending an e-mail to info@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 16 networks that make up the Société Santé en français.

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