



Press Release

For immediate release

Public Health Nurse Andrea Bernard Offers Client-Centered Services

O’Leary, PEI, April 17, 2017 – 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 nurse Andrea Bernard is the Étoile Santé for April 2017.

Andrea Bernard recently accepted a public health nurse position in West Prince, which makes her the only Francophone public health nurse in the area. Her office is situated at Community Hospital O’Leary, but the territory she serves is more specifically the Alberton and surrounding area.

“I really like this type of work. When I was in grade 10 at École Évangéline, I already knew I wanted to work with babies. That’s why I became a nurse. I obtained my diploma from the University of PEI in 2005. I worked in pediatrics and maternity, and I was also part of the float team at Prince County Hospital for a year. Then I moved to Western Canada with my husband, Damien Arsenault. I worked in British Columbia for a year and in Alberta for four years.”

After a few years in the western part of the country, the couple had a sudden urge to move back to Prince Edward Island. “I worked as a public health nurse in Prince County and a registered nurse at Stewart Memorial in Tyne Valley. After that, I taught the Practical Nursing program at Collège de l’Île.”

Andrea loves working with new families and their babies, especially in rural PEI. “When a mom leaves the hospital with her newborn baby, I get a follow-up file and organize a home visit. During these visits, I evaluate both the baby and mom. I answer any questions new parents may have, and I evaluate their needs. Sometimes, one visit from the public health nurse is enough, while other times, several visits are necessary. It really depends on each family’s needs. I’m there to support them.”

Besides working with young families, Andrea Bernard holds immunization clinics and child development assessment clinics. She also offers school health services, facilitates communicable disease follow-ups, and performs various other tasks, all related to public health.

Andrea Bernard is bilingual and she likes speaking French as part of her work. “I know from experience that it’s important to be able to speak one’s own language when talking about our health. I don’t hesitate to offer French-language services when I think a client speaks French. That’s how we meet a client’s needs and offer client-centered services,” added the friendly, cheerful nurse.

Andrea Bernard'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 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.

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Photo: Andrea Bernard

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