



News Release

For Immediate Release

Mélanie Gallant, a dedicated educator with a positive influence on the lives of students

WELLINGTON, PEI, April 30, 2016 – 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 health services on Prince Edward Island. The Health Network is continuing with this initiative for a second year, and is pleased to announce that the Étoile Santé for the month of May is educator and nurse Mélanie Gallant.

Mélanie Gallant teaches the Practical Nursing program at the Collège Acadie Î.-P.-É. She is presently accompanying her third group, a class of nine students who greatly appreciate her commitment. Three of them even decided to nominate her for the PEI French Health Network’s Étoile Santé campaign.

“Mélanie has influenced my life significantly. The passion with which she shares her knowledge cannot be ignored. She let me borrow books that I wasn’t able to purchase, and gave me advice to improve my French. Mélanie really loves what she does and is a very competent professional,” said one of these students. The two other students who nominated her agree. “Mélanie is a person who has a lot of compassion and empathy, and she is very proficient,” added one of them. “She gives us tools to better understand, and explains things very well,” mentioned the third student.

Mélanie Gallant did not plan to make a career out of teaching. She received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Université de Moncton in 2003, and worked in Moncton for six months before returning to the Island. From 2004 to 2010, she worked in bilingual positions at Prince County Hospital. She was working in the Emergency Department when the Collège Acadie contacted her.

“I started off by teaching the Resident Care Worker program at the Collège Acadie. I then developed the Practical Nursing program based on existing programs, and have been teaching it since. To this day, all those who graduated from the program have passed their national exam and found employment. I’m proud of them,” said the educator.

“It is important for me to offer health care services in French, and I try to pass this on to my students. They will be able to work in both official languages, and will be considered true gems when they enter the job market. The fact that my students appreciate my work shows me, without a doubt, that I’m in the right place, and that’s how I feel,” said Mélanie Gallant.

Mélanie lives in Saint-Timothée with her husband Robbie and their three children.

Mélanie Gallant's contact information can be found in the bilingual service provider directory at www.santeipe.ca/repertoire. People are encouraged to 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: Mélanie Gallant

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