



Press release

For immediate release

Gabriel Arsenault is recognized for his key role in prosthetics and the health care system

CHARLOTTETOWN, PEI, May 27, 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 in Prince Edward Island. The Health Network is pleased to continue with this initiative for a second year and to announce that the Étoile Santé for the month of June is Gabriel Arsenault, a prosthetist working out of Queen Elizabeth Hospital, in Charlottetown.

Individuals who undergo an amputation as a result of an accident or illness must then readjust to their new life. There to guide them through the whole process is Gabriel Arsenault. Once the patients have gone through the grieving process and healed from their surgery, the prosthetist becomes one of the most important figures in their life by helping them restore their mobility and quality of life.

Gabriel is the only prosthetist working within the PEI health care system. Hailing from the Acadian and Francophone community, he is able to offer this very specialized service in both official languages, which makes him a great source of community pride as well as an ideal candidate for the Étoile Santé campaign.

“My interest in prosthetics grew when my father lost a leg in a workplace accident in 2001,” said Gabriel. “I often went with him to his prosthetist appointments, which further piqued my curiosity. After high school, I completed a four-year bachelor’s degree in Kinesiology at Université de Moncton, followed by an internship with the QEH’s prosthetic and orthotics unit. The internship was made possible through the PERCÉ program and definitely helped me get into the Orthotics/Prosthetics Program at George Brown College in Ontario. I was able to secure my current job almost immediately after completing the three-year program.”

The world of prosthetics is constantly evolving with the introduction of new materials and styles. Prosthetists require regular training to keep up with technological developments.

Gabriel assesses each client’s needs and takes every opportunity to offer his services in French. “I’ve been called upon to fix a Francophone tourist’s broken prosthesis before, and I am fortunate to have other opportunities to speak French at work,” said Gabriel, who speaks mostly French at home.

Gabriel is energetic and very passionate about his work. Whether he’s building a custom prosthesis to meet specific needs or bracing a client as they take their first steps with a new limb, Gabriel is always willing to work with his clients to find the right solutions and help them improve their quality of life. This month’s Étoile Santé is a true champion in his field.

Gabriel Arsenault'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 website, 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: Gabriel Arsenault

Media Contact:

Patricia Richard

Tel: 902-854-7444