



Press Release

For immediate release

**The PEI French Health Network congratulates Health PEI, winner of the Excellence in French Language Services/Official Languages Award**

Charlottetown, PEI, July 21, 2015 – The PEI French Health Network (PEIFHN) would like to congratulate Health PEI, recent recipient of the Excellence in French Language Services/Official Languages Award, presented by the Prince Edward Island Regional Group of the Institute of Public Administration of Canada.

“We were very happy to learn that Health PEI had been recognized with this award for recent accomplishments in offering French-language health services. The PEIFHN has had a chance to collaborate with Health PEI on numerous projects over the past few years, and we can attest to the fact that they are deserving of this award”, said Johanne Irwin, co-chair of the PEIFHN.

Every year, the Prince Edward Island Regional Group of the Institute of Public Administration of Canada announces the recipients of various excellence awards during Public Service Week in June. These awards are presented to public service employees or organizations based on the following criteria: quality of leadership, innovation, promotion of teamwork, community/client focus, and commitment to continuous learning.

To receive the Excellence in French Language Services/Official Languages Award, the individual or organization must have demonstrated leadership and made continuous efforts in the area of respect, promotion and progress when it comes to providing quality services in French, in the context of Prince Edward Island’s official languages objectives.

The PEIFHN has collaborated with Health PEI on numerous projects, including the establishment of a bilingual neighborhood at Summerset Manor in Summerside, which garnered attention across the country.

The PEIFHN often hears positive comments from other provincial networks regarding Health PEI’s openness and commitment to improving services offered to the minority population. The PEIFHN has collaborated with Health PEI on initiatives to improve the following: access to French-language health services in long-term care centres, data collection, the identification of bilingual employees, the implementation of Telehealth 8-1-1 (bilingual telephone service), as well as the adoption of a policy on the provision of interpretation services, just to name a few.

“Many of these initiatives are regarded as innovative, because they often have an impact on the organization and delivery of services. We look forward to pursuing our collaboration with Health PEI in order to improve services for all Islanders”, concluded Johanne Irwin.

*The Institute of Public Administration of Canada (IPAC), founded in 1947, is a dynamic association of public servants, academics,*

*and others interested in public administration. Anchored by its regional groups, IPAC is a membership-based organization that creates knowledge networks and leads public administration research in Canada. Since the early 1990s, IPAC has been a major player in exporting successful Canadian public sector expertise around the world.*

*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:** Élise Arsenault, French Services Analyst, Health PEI and Dr. Richard Wedge, Chief Executive Officer of Health PEI.

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