



Press release

For immediate release

Maddie Hughes is a future nurse who knows how to take care of people

CHARLOTTETOWN (PEI) - July 29, 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 August is Maddie Hughes, a nursing student. This is the first time since the beginning of the Étoile Santé campaign that the Health Network has chosen to nominate a student. A well-deserved reward for Maddie.

In May of 2017, Maddie Hughes, who is from Charlottetown, will get her bachelor's degree in nursing from UPEI. But one can already tell by the way she deals with patients and from her work and her internships that she will be an asset for the province's health care system. Maddie Hughes, whose first language is English, is also bilingual – or maybe trilingual since she speaks French *and* knows sign language.

When she started university, she received the prestigious TD Scholarship for Community Leadership. "When I was in high school, I did a lot of volunteering, especially to help a young man with cerebral palsy. Helping him help me better understand what I wanted to do. I also created a league so that people with special needs could participate in physical activities. It's because of my volunteer work that I learned sign language. And because of all that, I got my scholarship," she explained.

During an internship at Prince County Hospital in the spring of 2016, her professionalism and, in particular, her attentiveness to the needs of a French-speaking patient were noticed and recognized by that patient.

"The thought of having to stay at the hospital was not making me very happy. But, when I woke up from surgery, Maddie Hughes, a third-year nursing student, was there. She spoke to me in French during my five-day stay at the hospital. It was so nice and reassuring to have her explain to me what she was doing and the details of my treatment in French," said the patient, who has now completely recovered for her surgery.

Ms. Hughes remembers this patient well. "I saw her name on my files and I took the initiative to introduce myself in French. While taking care of her, I gain confidence in my French-language skills," mentioned the nursing student, who works at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Charlottetown for the summer.

"For me, being a nurse is about helping people and taking care of them. Yes, there is the medical side of the job, but for me, taking care of people goes beyond that. If just by speaking French I can make someone

feel less disoriented and less vulnerable, why not?” said the young woman who will undoubtedly have a remarkable career in nursing.

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, people can 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 nada within the framework of the Roadmap for Canada’s Official Languages-2013-2018: Education, Immigration, Communities.

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Photo: Maddie Hughes

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