News Release

For Immediate Releas

Beach Grove Home Cooperates with the PEI French Health Network
to Celebrate National Acadian Day

CHARLOTTETOWN, PEI – September 1, 2017 – The Prince Edward Island French Health Network (PEIFHN) assisted in organizing festivities for residents at Beach Grove Home in Charlottetown this past August 15 to mark the annual National Acadian Day. The activity was part of efforts on the part of the PEIFHN to strengthen cooperation with the objective of improving French-language services for Francophone residents of long-term care homes in Prince Edward Island.

Jennifer Jelley, who oversaw the event at Beach Grove Home, was responsible for hosting the festivities in both official languages. "The group effort and involvement of the staff were plain to see at this event, which is part of an initiative launched in April 2017 to enhance services in French at Beach Grove Home," she explained. "We were thrilled by the success of the first National Acadian Day celebrations to be held at Beach Grove."

Some 40 or more residents, many of them Francophone, along with numerous staff members, students, volunteers and family members, took part in the celebration organized outdoors in one of the home's courtyards. After Ms. Jelley welcomed all in attendance, a "tintamarre", or traditional noise parade, was held featuring children from the day care accompanied by fiddler Zakary Cormier and step dancer Kaylee Arsenault. To the residents' great pleasure, one employee could not resist jumping up and dancing a jig to the lively music. The participants then moved on to a table of tasty sweets decorated in Acadian colours.

For Élise Arseneault, Executive Director of the PEIFHN, the event highlighted the value of offering services and activities that meet the needs of Francophone residents. "It was beyond rewarding to see the joy on the faces of the Francophone residents when they heard the host, some of the staff, the bilingual students and the musicians speak to them in French," she explained. "This shows the importance for the French Health Network of continuing to foster partnerships and seek solutions targeting the increased presence of French in our public institutions. We are doing this both for the current residents and for those who will come after them."

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

-30-

Photo: Residents of Beach Grove Home celebrate National Acadian Day

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