



Press Release

For immediate release

### **Julie LeBreton, speech language pathologist in French-language schools**

**CHARLOTTETOWN, PEI, October 1, 2015** – As part of the Étoile Santé (health star) campaign, whose purpose is to promote, recruit and make people aware of health professionals who offer French-language health services on Prince Edward Island, the PEI French Health Network (PEIFHN) is pleased to announce that the Étoile Santé for the month of September is awarded to speech language pathologist Julie LeBreton.

Julie LeBreton has been a speech language pathologist with the French Language School Board for three years. She sees students who attend the province's Eastern schools – École François-Buote, where her office is located, École La-Belle-Cloche, in Fortune, and École Saint-Augustin, in Rustico.

"At the beginning of the school year, I spend time in each school to screen every kindergarten student. This is necessary so that I can identify students in need of support, and intervene in such a way so as to ensure that they have a good start in school and in life."

According to Julie LeBreton, speech language pathology involves much more than the pronunciation of words, even though that's part of it. "I make a distinction between speech and language. Speech involves the pronunciation and articulation of sounds, while language involves understanding and expression. Speech language pathologists who work in a school setting give recommendations and strategies with the intention of bringing about long-term changes. We also work as a team with the parent, school staff, psychologist and other healthcare professionals, if necessary."

Like in any other situation involving a child's wellbeing, intervention must start as soon as possible. Since February 2015, Julie LeBreton has also been serving Francophone preschool children, from birth to kindergarten entry, in the Eastern part of the province.

This is what resulted in her being named an Étoile Santé, as part of the PEI French Health Network's campaign. A child's parents were worried about his language development, since he was being raised in a bilingual home. "Julie LeBreton addressed our concerns and offered solutions in the form of a support program. Our son's language development improved and is still improving in our bilingual home, and she reassured us considerably," indicated the father.

Julie LeBreton is a native of the Acadian Peninsula in New Brunswick. She completed a Bachelor of Social Work from Université de Moncton, then a bilingual Master's in Speech Language Pathology at the University of Ottawa. Since moving to the Island, she has been very involved in the Francophone community. Being able to live and work in French are very important to her, and the fact that she is able to use her skills to help families evolve in a bilingual environment brings her great satisfaction.

Finding French-language health professionals and accessing the services they offer remains a challenge in increasing French-language health services here in Prince Edward Island. It is crucial to make French-language professionals more accessible and visible in the community. It's the raison d'être of the Étoile Santé campaign.

Julie LeBreton's contact information can be found in the bilingual service provider directory at [www.santeipe.ca/repertoire](http://www.santeipe.ca/repertoire). People are encouraged to nominate health professionals who actively offer French-language health services in Prince Edward Island. For more information on the Étoile Santé campaign or to nominate someone directly on the PEIFHN's Web site, go to [www.santeipe.ca](http://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 :** Julie LeBreton

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