



Press Release

For immediate release

A year filled with new initiatives at the PEI French Health Network
Highlights of the 2015 Annual General Meeting

SUMMERSIDE, PEI, October 5, 2015 – The PEI French Health Network held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Monday, September 28 at the Centre Belle-Alliance in Summerside. The AGM was an opportunity to look back on a productive year. It was the Health Network's first full year of incorporation, and it was a year filled with many projects, wonderful collaborations and new initiatives.

Over the past year, the Health Network continued its *Santé Bonjour!* campaign, which encourages workers who are able to provide services in French to get their name listed in the Network's directory. Last December, building on that success, the Health Network announced its new *Étoile Santé* campaign to value, recruit and promote health professionals who provide French language health services in Prince Edward Island.

The hiring of a new bilingual dietitian by the PEI Healthy Eating Alliance is an excellent example of collaboration between the Health Network and its various partners. The Health Network noticed that the Francophone community of Prince Edward Island needed the services of a dietitian. It therefore initiated talks with the Department of Health and Wellness, the Department of Education, Early Learning and Culture, and the PEI Healthy Eating Alliance during the fall of 2014. These discussions triggered actions allowing for the hiring of a dietitian.

Following the launch of a call for proposals last November for health promotion projects aimed at improving access to quality French-language health programs and services for the Acadian and Francophone population of Prince Edward Island, four projects were selected. These projects contributed to achieving these objectives.

Furthermore, last March, for the first time, the Health Network offered two \$1,500 bursaries to Prince Edward Island Francophone or Francophile students enrolled in a post-secondary health program for 2015-2016. When students registered for the bursaries, their names were automatically added to the PEIFHN health student database.

Kim Gill, Project Manager at Health PEI, was the guest speaker at the AGM. She presented a new initiative aimed at improving access to information on health system use by the Acadian and Francophone community and identifying Health PEI's capacity to provide services in French.

Finally, during the AGM, Gabriel Arsenault and Marie Dionne-Sullivan were reappointed for a second three-year term, while Aubrey Cormier was reappointed representative of the Société Saint-Thomas-d'Aquin. During a Board meeting which took place immediately following the AGM, Gabriel Arsenault

was re-elected Vice-chair, and Tracy Chiasson-Lawlor was elected Secretary. Linda Richards continued in her appointment as Treasurer, while Isabelle Dasyva-Gill and Johanne Irwin continued as Co-chairs.

To consult the Health Network's 2014-2015 annual report, visit <http://santeipe.ca/librairie-de-documents/rapports-annuels/>.

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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