



Press Release

For Immediate Release

**The PEI French Health Network looks back on a productive year
marked by great projects and collaborations**
Highlights of the 2015-2016 Annual General Meeting

SUMMERSIDE, PEI, October 7, 2016 – The PEI French Health Network held its Annual General Meeting on Thursday, September 29, at the Centre Belle-Alliance in Summerside. The AGM was an opportunity to look back on a productive year filled with many projects and wonderful collaborations.

During the AGM, the PEIFHN organized a panel on home care for its members. Given that home care is one of the services identified as a priority by the Acadian and Francophone community, the goal of the panel was to provide a better understanding of home care services in a minority Francophone context. The panel included a home care provider, a caregiver and two managers in the home care field. It was a great opportunity for all parties to share information.

Mental health was a priority for the PEIFHN this year. In June 2015, approximately 200 participants took part in the first mental health forum. The PEIFHN has been working closely with Health PEI and the Prince Edward Island Division of the Canadian Mental Health Association to increase the resources and services available in French. The PEIFHN also supported a mental health project spearheaded by the Village des Sources that offered Youth Mental Health First Aid training to 72 individuals.

Over the past year, the PEIFHN continued its Étoile Santé campaign, which aims to value, recruit and promote health professionals who provide French language health services in Prince Edward Island. Close to twenty health professionals have been featured to date. Last March, the PEIFHN also held its very first Étoiles Santé Gala in conjunction with a conference on the active offer of French language health services. The day of activities was dedicated to bilingual workers in Prince Edward Island's public and private health care sectors.

A call for proposals was issued for health promotion projects to build individual and collective capacities to support health and wellness in French. Seven projects were awarded financial support and were then carried out in various Island communities.

For the first time, the PEIFHN gave away two \$1,500 scholarships to Prince Edward Island Francophone or Francophile students enrolled in a post-secondary health program for 2015-2016. When students registered for the scholarships, their names were automatically added to the PEIFHN health student database.

During the AGM, Carole Gallant was elected parents and early childhood representative, while Rose Delaney was elected as the second seniors' representative. Both women will serve their first three-year

term. Claude Blaquière was elected Treasurer of the PEIFHN and will take Father Eddie Cormier's place as the seniors' representative until September 2017. Isabelle Dasyva-Gill and Johanne Irwin continue their appointment as co-chairs, while Gabriel Arsenault stays on as vice-chair and Tracy Chiasson-Lawlor stays on as secretary.

The PEIFHN's 2015-2016 annual report can be viewed online at <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 the 16 networks that make up the Société Santé en français.

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