



Press Release

For immediate distribution

Orthotist Vanessa Lavoie making a difference in the quality of life of her clients

CHARLOTTETOWN, PEI, October 11, 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 services in Prince Edward Island. The Health Network is pleased to pursue this initiative for a second year and to announce that the *Étoile Santé* for the month of October is orthotist Vanessa Lavoie.

Orthotists are health professionals who specialize in making various types of orthotics, such as for the knees or feet.

The only orthotist in private practice on Prince Edward Island is Vanessa Lavoie. Her clinic is located in the Polyclinic building in Charlottetown. As a Francophone, it gives her great pleasure to help clients who appreciate her providing services in French. “Vanessa shows a personal interest in all of her clients. Her professional and friendly services have allowed me to have comfortable shoes and orthotics, explained the client who nominated Vanessa for the Health Network’s *Étoile Santé* campaign.

“I know this client quite well, indicated Vanessa when she learned about the nomination. Before opening my practice in Charlottetown, this client would travel regularly outside the province to get her orthotics adjusted.” Another one of her clients explained how more comfortable she is to be able to speak French during her consultations.

“I spend a lot of time with my clients conducting complete walking and running biomechanic assessments as well as examinations of the joints. Then come the design and manufacturing of the orthotic device, followed by the delivery, which involves an important verification step, making the necessary adjustments.”

Originally from Packington, Québec, Vanessa Lavoie received her diploma in 2009 from Collège Méridi, one of Canada’s four institutions that train orthotists and prosthetists. She immediately found employment in Moncton, was recruited by the Equilibrium group and opened a practice in Charlottetown in 2012. Always looking to better serve her clients, she received an additional national certification in the summer of 2016.

When Vanessa arrived on the Island, she did not speak any English. She therefore understands the challenges of communicating in another language. This professional and friendly orthotist is proud to offer quality services in both official languages.

Vanessa Lavoie's contact information can be found in the Bilingual Service Provider Directory at www.santeipe.ca/repertoire. Individuals are encouraged to nominate health professionals who actively offer French-language health services in Prince Edward Island. In doing so, they could win \$500. For more information on the *Étoile Santé* campaign or to nominate someone directly on the PEIFHN's Web site, 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 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: Vanessa Lavoie

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