



Press Release

For immediate release

**The PEI French Health Network congratulates Health PEI, winner of the
Société Santé en français 2015 national recognition award**

OTTAWA (Ontario), October 23, 2015 – The national *Connexion 2015* meeting was recently held in Ottawa on October 14-15. Over 100 Francophone health partners from across Canada gathered to take stock of important health issues in French. It was announced during the official opening of the meeting that Health PEI initiatives had been recognized, earning them the Société Santé en français 2015 national recognition award.

"We were very pleased to find out that Health PEI had received this national recognition award for their work in relation to services offered to Francophone seniors and the inclusion of language on the health card. Their contribution led to the opening of a 26-bed bilingual neighborhood at the Summerset Manor," said Johanne Irwin, community co-chair of the PEI French Health Network.

Islanders recently received a Health PEI survey, asking them to indicate their preferred language for service delivery. Once the information has been received, their language profile will be linked to their health card. This new initiative, a first in Canada, allows for the collection of data on health services use based on language. This will enable Health PEI to better plan for the delivery of services offered by Prince Edward Island's health system.

The recognition award honours the exceptional achievement of a team or individual. Conscious of their responsibility in terms of knowledge transfer and sharing in the healthcare field in French, the Société Santé en français considers it important to celebrate successes in order to nurture the engagement of stakeholders, concerned organizations and government. More specifically, the award aims to recognize contributions deemed exceptional based on the themes that reflect the values and priorities of the SSF. Therefore an award can be presented based on the following themes: innovation, partnership, human resources development and mobilization, community engagement, rising star, exemplary mentor, and dynamic team.

The Société Santé en français is a national leader who, in close collaboration with French health networks in each province and territory, ensures better access to quality French-language health services and programs, thus improving the health of the entire minority Francophone and Acadian communities. The Société Santé en français and the networks contribute actively to the healthy development of minority Francophone and Acadian communities in an equitable healthcare system that respects their cultural, social and linguistic values.

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.

Photo: Kim Gill, Project Manager, Health PEI, and Roger Farley, Executive Director, Official Language Community Development Bureau (OLCDB), Health Canada.

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