



News Release

For Immediate Release

Dr. Kristian Macdonald pays close attention to ears, noses, throats – and his French

CHARLOTTETOWN, PEI, October 24, 2017 – 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 on Prince Edward Island. The Health Network is pleased to announce that the Étoile Santé for October 2017 is Dr. Kristian Macdonald, an otorhinolaryngologist working out of Summerside.

There are three ear-nose-and-throat specialists in Prince Edward Island – but Dr. Macdonald is the only one who speaks French, which he does with pride and ease. He started practising at the Summerside Medical Centre in the summer of 2017.

Kristian Macdonald grew up in Charlottetown. His mother, Claudette Macdonald, is Acadian and taught French immersion. After graduating from the French immersion program at Charlottetown Rural, Dr. Macdonald started his post-secondary studies at the University of Prince Edward Island. “I’ve always wanted to be a doctor,” says Dr. Macdonald, “but for various reasons started my career as a pharmacist. I studied science for two years at UPEI before completing my studies in pharmacy at Memorial University. After working as a pharmacist in PEI for two years, I decided to enroll at the Dalhousie Medical School.”

“What I like about otorhinolaryngology is that it involves both medical and surgical components. I begin a consultation process with my patients and, when necessary, follow them into surgery. I also get to see patients of all ages. I love my work!”

According to Dr. Macdonald, around 5 to 10% of his patients speak French. “Sometimes I find out by overhearing them talk to each other, for example if a mother speaks to her child in French; other times I hear the hint of a French accent. They are generally surprised, happy and relieved to learn that they can speak their first language and be understood. This is especially true with kids.”

Dr. Macdonald’s name was submitted to the PEI French Health Network’s Étoile Santé campaign by a grateful mother. « When he heard me speaking French to my son, Dr. Macdonald immediately switched to French,” said the mom in her application. “What a wonderful surprise that was! He was also very attentive; we are lucky to have such a great doctor.”

Clearly very competent in his field, the doctor is perhaps best known for his kindness and his excellent listening skills – in both of Canada’s official languages.

Dr. Kristian Macdonald's contact information can be found in the bilingual service provider directory at www.santeipe.ca/repertoire. Anyone can nominate health professionals who actively offer French language health services in Prince Edward Island for a chance to 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: Dr. Kristian Macdonald

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