



Press Release

For immediate release

Optometrist Catherine Arsenault delivers personalized service in French

SUMMERSIDE, PEI, October 29, 2015 – 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 health services in Prince Edward Island. The Health Network is pleased to announce that the Étoile Santé for the month of October is optometrist Catherine Arsenault.

Dr. Catherine Arsenault has been practicing optometry for 21 years, and providing services on Prince Edward Island since 2000. “I work in two clinics: the Vision Clinic in Summerside, and the Family Vision Centre in Charlottetown. I have many Francophone clients, especially in Summerside. Sometimes three quarters of my day is spent in French. In Charlottetown, between 10 and 20% of my clientele is Francophone.”

Dr. Arsenault’s clients really appreciate her, and this resulted in her being named an Étoile Santé, as part of the PEI French Health Network’s campaign. “Dr. Arsenault is very welcoming, she’s always available, and she always offers services in French,” said Father Eddie Cormier, who nominated her.

The Francophone optometrist believes it is important to spend time with each one of her clients. “When I meet with clients, I like to take the time to chat with them. It allows me to get to know them better and to offer personalized service. I think my clients appreciate the fact that they don't feel rushed or pressed for time.”

Eye health is important at any age. Moreover, October is Children's Eye Health Month. “We can do eye exams as early as six months, but in general, first eye exams are done around the age of three or four, so that potential problems can be detected prior to kindergarten entry. As a matter of fact, the provincial government has set up a new program, *Eye See... Eye Learn!*, which allows Island kindergarten students to get a free eye exam and, if necessary, a free pair of glasses.” For more information, consult the Health PEI Web site at www.healthpei.ca/eyesee-eyelearn.

Dr. Arsenault is particularly happy to be bilingual after having recently spent three weeks in Europe with her family. “In five of the six countries that we visited, people didn't speak French or English very well. I was actually able to realize how fortunate we are to obtain services in our language, especially when it's related to our health,” concluded the young professional worker.

She and her husband live in Emyvale with their two daughters.

Dr. Catherine Arsenault’s contact information can be found in the bilingual service provider directory at www.santepei.ca/repertoire. People are encouraged to nominate health professionals who actively

offer French-language health services in Prince Edward Island. 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.

-30-

Photo: Catherine Arsenault

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