



Press Release

For immediate release

Louise Bossé: Pioneer in French-language services at Prince County Hospital

SUMMERSIDE, PEI, January 7, 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 health services in Prince Edward Island. The Health Network is pleased to continue with this initiative for a second year and to announce that the Étoile Santé for the month of January is nurse Louise Bossé.

Louise Bossé embodies the qualities of a model nurse: patient, nursing, calm, attentive and especially, very competent.

Originally from Edmundston, New Brunswick, Louise Bossé was one of the first bilingual nurses hired in the wake of the adoption of the very first French Services Policy, under the leadership of Premier Joe Ghiz. "I completed my studies at Université de Moncton on December 8, 1990, and on December 12, I had a job on the Island. I started working in February 1991. I was one of the first three bilingual nurses hired at Prince County Hospital", recalls the nurse.

The integration of a team of bilingual nurses at the hospital required some adjustments. It took a few years before the hospital finally opted for a float team. Bilingual nurses could then "float" from one service to another, where there was a demand. "In all the departments where I worked, I tried to enhance French-language services. I would always ask for pamphlets and information in French, in an effort to improve the services. It was important for me."

A former colleague, Mélanie Gallant, wanted Louise Bossé to be recognized as a star when it comes to French-language health services. "I worked with Louise and saw how she interacted with patients. She was also very supportive towards my family during a difficult time. Louise is a gem who has played a significant role in sharing the French language in the field of nursing, and she has done so with great pride!" says Mélanie Gallant.

Louise Bossé has a phenomenal memory that allows her to remember details as specific as the room number where a particular family was gathered around a sick or dying relative. "We obviously see people at times in their lives where they are vulnerable. For Francophone clients, being able to express themselves in French and knowing that they'll be understood can be a relief."

Louise Bossé has been working in the Emergency department since the opening of the new hospital 10 years ago.

Louise Bossé's contact information can be found in the bilingual service provider directory at

www.santeipe.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.

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Photo: Louise Bossé

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