



Press release

For immediate release

Meet PEI's dedicated dermatologist: Dr. Catherine Rodriguez

CHARLOTTETOWN, PEI, July 13, 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 July is Prince Edward Island's one and only dermatologist, Dr. Catherine Rodriguez.

Dr. Rodriguez started working in PEI in January 2015. Born in Chicoutimi, Quebec, she lived in several Canadian cities with her military family before moving back to Quebec, where she completed ten years of academic studies.

"I knew I wanted to be a doctor from a very young age. My interest in dermatology was piqued when I consulted a dermatologist myself and saw first-hand how much his work changed my life. I love what I do, because I see how I too can positively impact people's lives," says the young specialist.

Dr. Rodriguez sees both French and English-speaking patients. "I have many francophone patients. I have the opportunity to spend some days talking mostly in French. Being able to express themselves in French is very important for these patients, because they know we'll be able to understand each other."

It's this quality of personal contact that won Dr. Rodriguez the title of Étoile Santé for the month of July. One of her patients, an elderly lady from France who speaks very little English, was nervous about seeing a specialist. She and her daughter, who expected to play the role of interpreter during the appointment, were quite relieved to find that the doctor had no problem understanding them. "She was very gentle and explained everything in French," wrote the daughter when nominating Dr. Rodriguez. "My mother quickly felt at ease, and it wasn't hard to see that she trusted her."

Given the rise of skin cancer in Prince Edward Island, dermatology has become an increasingly important specialty in global health. "I regrettably see a lot of patients fighting certain forms of cancer, but also for other skin diseases like psoriasis, acne and eczema." As is the case for all specialists, patients need to get a referral from a doctor to see PEI's only dermatologist.

As a mother of two, the youngest being only eight months old, Dr. Rodriguez keeps herself quite busy both at work and at home. Her family commonly speaks three languages at home: French, English and Spanish. This month's Étoile Santé clearly recognizes the value and importance of being able to communicate in several languages!

Dr. Catherine Rodriguez'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 a chance to win \$500. For more information on the Étoile Santé campaign or to nominate someone directly on the PEIFHN's website, 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. Catherine Rodriguez

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