News Release   For Immediate Release

French Services Champion for Seniors

CHARLOTTETOWN, PEI, September 9, 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 provincial director of long-term care, Andrew MacDougall, is the recipient of the Étoile Santé award for August 2017.

Andrew MacDougall is a French services champion for seniors. Having been provincial director of long-term care for almost a year, it is as administrator of the Beach Grove, Prince Edward and Sherwood homes that he realized how important it was for Francophone seniors to have access to services in their own language.

"On several occasions, I have witnessed or was informed of situations where having a Francophone staff member could have made a difference for clients. That made me understand that offering services in French was not just a courtesy but an obligation to our clients," explained Andrew MacDougall.

For this motivated administrator, one way to improve services would be to create a bilingual section within the Beach Grove Home. "I observed with great interest the initiative of Summerset Manor in Summerside, where a bilingual neighborhood was established. We will be adapting the concept for our establishment. It will be the only one in the capital city to provide this Francophone environment which we intend to open in the spring of 2018," said Andrew MacDougall.

"The language of communication and the feeling of being understood are fundamental aspects of a person's well-being. We are dedicated to creating a bilingual environment to be able to better address the needs of Francophone residents. I am lucky to be surrounded by team members that understand that. Their efforts are needed to carry out the project," explained the administrator.

Andrew MacDougall's contact information can be found in the bilingual service provider directory at www.santeipe.ca/repertoire. The public is 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 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: Andrew MacDougall

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