



Press Release

For immediate distribution

Island Help Line and PEI Helping Tree available in French

CHARLOTTETOWN, PEI, September 19, 2015 – On Thursday, September 10, on World Suicide Prevention Day, the PEI French Health Network (PEIFHN) attended the launch of a promotional campaign for the Island Helpline, along with Health PEI and the Prince Edward Island Division of the Canadian Mental Health Association.

“With the financial assistance of the PEIFHN, the PEI Helpline promotional tools are now available in both official languages. Also, the Helpline’s Web site is completely bilingual: www.theislandhelpline.com. This is all very beneficial to the Acadian and Francophone community because the Helpline provides free services in French,” explained Élise Arsenault, Director of the PEIFHN.

The PEI Helpline provides free and confidential psychological support and crisis intervention services to Islanders of all ages. Trained volunteers and staff respond to calls day and night, 365 days a year. They also help out by providing information and vital links to resources and support measures in the community.

Also, the PEIFHN is pleased to partner with the Prince Edward Island Division of the Canadian Mental Health Association to present the 2015 edition of the PEI Helping Tree, available in French as well. The purpose of the PEI Helping Tree is to inform Islanders of the many resources available on Prince Edward Island. The arrows in the document indicate where to go to find the resources needed to address specific issues. To download the Helping Tree from the Network Web site, go to http://santeipe.ca/wp-content/uploads/HelpingTree-Aug-25_2015_FRE_final.pdf.

You can call the Island Helpline at 1-800-218-2885, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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: Nicole MacLeod, Manager of promotions and marketing for the Canadian Mental Health Association PEI; Nikita Moriarity, Executive Director, Chimo Helpline; Élise Arsenault, Director of the PEI French Health Network; Verna Ryan, Director of Mental Health and Addictions, Health PEI; Kevin MacKinnon and Debbie Flood-Vickerson, members of the Suicide Prevention Committee; and Pat Doyle, Suicide Prevention Coordinator for the Canadian Mental Health Association PEI.

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