



Press Release

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First Annual General Meeting of the PEI French Health Network

SUMMERSIDE, PEI, October 3, 2014 – The PEI French Health Network held its first Annual General Meeting (AGM) on October 1st at the Centre Belle-Alliance in Summerside. After more than 10 years of existence, the province’s Francophone health network officially became, in 2013, an incorporated organization. The AGM was an opportunity to look back on the past year, which was a year of transition, but also a year full of projects and collaborations.

Following the launch of a call for proposals last December for health promotion projects aimed at building individual and collective capacities to support health and wellness in French, three projects were selected – “Personal and social development camps”, “Winter activity for special needs children” and “Sexual health for girls and young women”. These projects helped improve access to quality French-language health programs and services for the Acadian and Francophone population of Prince Edward Island.

The Société Santé en français, the Health Network and Santé en français (Manitoba) recently revealed the results of the project entitled “Improving access to French-language health services for seniors in Manitoba and Prince Edward Island”. In Prince Edward Island, the project led directly to the opening of a 26 bed bilingual neighborhood in a long term care facility in Summerside.

In the interest of increasing the bilingual workforce, the Health Network signed a partnership agreement with three professional bodies in the field of health: the PEI College of Physiotherapists, the PEI Chiropractic Association and the PEI Association of Naturopathic Doctors. The agreements demonstrate their commitment to providing quality health care to French-speaking Islanders. These partnerships will tangibly improve access to French services for the Acadian and Francophone population of Prince Edward Island.

The Health Network also launched the “Santé Bonjour!” campaign to encourage workers who are able to provide services in French to get their name included in the online directory. In return, they received a free shirt and pin with the “Bonjour!” logo to promote the active offer of services among their clients.

During the AGM, Isabelle Dasylyva-Gill and Andy Gallant were appointed to the Board of Directors, while Johanne Irwin, Josée Gallant-Gordon, Priscille Arsenault, Linda Richards and Father Eddie Cormier were reappointed for a second three-year term. Members of the Executive Committee were elected at a Board meeting which took place immediately following the AGM: Isabelle Dasylyva-Gill and Johanne Irwin were appointed Co-chairs, and Linda Richards was named Treasurer. Gabriel Arsenault and Una Hassenstein continued in their appointments as Vice-chair and Secretary.

The Health Network wishes to thank Diane Arsenault and Béatrice Caillié for their years of service. Ms. Arsenault was Co-chair of the Health Network since April 2011, and Ms. Caillié was a member of the Board of Directors since November 2010.

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.

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