



Press Release

For immediate release

**A productive year for the PEI French Health Network**  
*Highlights of the 2017 Annual General Meeting*

**SUMMERSIDE, PEI, October 4, 2017** – The PEI French Health Network held its Annual General Meeting on Monday, September 25, at the Centre Belle-Alliance in Summerside. The AGM was an opportunity to look back on a productive year filled with many projects and wonderful collaborations.

Michael K. Corman, Ph. D., Principal Advisor for Seniors' Health with the Department of Health and Wellness was the keynote speaker. Mr. Corman and his team will be developing the very first provincial seniors' health and wellness strategy, a global strategic framework based on best practices. In the coming months, they will be talking with Island seniors and stakeholders to ensure that the strategy addresses their needs. Mr. Corman wants to work with the Health Network to reach out to and properly include the Acadian and Francophone population in the new strategy.

*Mental Health*

Mental health continues to be an important issue for the Health Network. During the past year, the Health Network pursued its partnership with Health PEI and the Prince Edward Island Division of the Canadian Mental Health Association to increase resources and access to services in French. The Health Network continues to provide mental health first aid training through the Mental Health Commission of Canada.

*Home Care*

Since the publication of the *Soins à domicile en français* report (French Language Home Care Report) in 2013, the Network has continued its collaboration to see to the implementation of the report's recommendations. To assist Health PEI improve its ability to deliver services, the Health Network and the Société Santé en français are collaborating with the University of Sherbrooke to identify delivery models that can be adapted to the Island's Francophone minority context.

*Long Term Care*

To increase French language health services in long-term care facilities in Charlottetown and benefitting from the experience acquired during the establishment of a bilingual neighborhood at the Summerset Manor, planning is now underway to establish a bilingual neighborhood at Beach Grove Home in Charlottetown.

### Language Training

The Health Network has developed a partnership with its New Brunswick counterparts during the past year through the *Cafés de Paris* program, which gives a whole new perspective on language training in health facilities. This innovative approach not only increases the active offer of French-language health services but also provides staff with opportunities to receive personalized language training.

### Étoile Santé Campaign

The purpose of the Étoile Santé campaign is to recognize, recruit and promote health professionals who provide services in French. The campaign is now in its third year and serves as a model. In March, the Health Network was pleased to present its approach to Quebec's anglophone network group - the Community Health and Social Services Network – when they met in Gatineau.

During the AGM, Paul Young was elected health professional representative for his first three-year mandate. Jennifer McPhee was appointed by the Collège de l'Île to represent the Société éducative de l'Î.-P.-É. and Kim Critchley, Ph. D., Deputy Minister of Health and Wellness, accepted to represent her department. The Executive Committee is now comprised of Gabriel Arsenault, new community co-chair; Rose Delaney, new vice-chair; Claude Blaquière, who will remain treasurer; and Tracy Chiasson-Lawlor, who will remain secretary. The Health Network would like to thank outgoing members Johanne Irwin, Colette Aucoin and Josée Gallant-Gordon, for their contribution during the past few years.

The 2016-2017 Health Network Annual Report is available at: <http://santeipe.ca/wp-content/uploads/Annual-Report-2016-2017-FINAL.pdf>.

*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:** Élise Arsenault with keynote speaker Michael K. Corman.

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