

November 24, 2011

Putting health interests first for Francophones

The *Réseau du mieux-être francophone du Nord de l'Ontario* is a ministry-appointed French-language service planning entity that works with the North East and North West LHINs to encourage vigorous participation from Francophones to improve access to health care.

Francophone community engagement is a major part of the planning entity's role, through an agreement signed with the LHINs. The Réseau is now beginning a more active role phase of its LHIN work. In fact next Monday (28th) in Sault Ste. Marie, staff of the entity will be on hand to help engage with Francophones in Algoma about how to create a less fragmented mental health and addictions system in this part of our region.

By establishing local health tables (*Carrefours santé*) of stakeholders with an interest in improving access to French language health services, the Réseau helps the LHIN to receive feedback from the Francophone population.

The Réseau is also developing a Francophone community engagement plan, in collaboration with the NE LHIN, which will include further engagement activities to help improve the integration of French Language Services in the local health care system.

At a meeting earlier this month, the NE LHIN's French Language Services team met with its Réseau counterparts to discuss both their distinctive roles and common activities on behalf of the more than 125,000 Francophones in the NE LHIN region.

"Our partnership with the Réseau helps to ensure our engagement efforts with Francophones are helping to increase access to care for fellow Francophones. Our LHIN has the largest percentage of French-speaking people in Ontario at 24%," says Louise Paquette, CEO of the NE LHIN.

"The Réseau is very happy to facilitate these activities in order to ensure that the needs of Francophones are taken into account in the planning of health services within our region. We are looking forward to working in collaboration with the NE LHIN on matters that impact, directly or indirectly, the Francophone community and the health status of Francophones in general", says France Jodoin, Executive Director of the Réseau du mieux-être francophone du Nord de l'Ontario.

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From Left to Right: Anne Proulx-Séguin, FLS Coordinator, NE LHIN; Lynne Dupuis, Senior Planner, Réseau; Planning Officers (Réseau): Véronique Poirier, Laetitia Tchoualack, Sylvie Sylvestre (on screen); Lise Anne Boissonneault, FLS Coordinator, NE LHIN.

Missing from photo: André Rhéaume, Planning Officer, Réseau.

LEARN MORE:

French Language Health Services is one of nine NE LHIN priorities. See engagement with the Francophone community under section 16 of the *Local Health System Integration Act, 2006* at http://www.nelhin.on.ca/page_priority.aspx?id=5888

Réseau du mieux-être francophone du Nord de l'Ontario – web site:
www.reseaudumieuxetre.ca