

Media Release

Working together to improve French-language health services in Ontario's Champlain and South East regions

Ottawa, April 15, 2014 – More than 90 per cent of recommendations made by the *French Language Health Services Network of Eastern Ontario (the Réseau)* on developing French-language health services resulted in action by the Champlain Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) and the South East LHIN in 2013.

These results are noted in the *Réseau Recommendations Report*, posted today on all three partners' websites.

The Champlain and South East LHINs and the Réseau have worked together with local health-care providers to improve French-language health services since 2010. As part of the health service planning process, the LHINs engage with and request advice from the Réseau on health issues affecting Francophones in their regions.

Most of the Réseau's recommendations aim to include the Francophone perspective in priority initiatives in Champlain and the South East, such as the two LHINs' Integrated Health Services Plans (IHSPs) for 2013-2016 and the development of Health Links in Champlain.

A number of recommendations have involved joint action leading to a positive, systemic impact on health services offered in French. The collaborative effort has resulted in initiatives toward improved collection of data on Francophone health, new accountability measures for health-care agencies regarding services in French, and enhanced support of agencies working toward French-language designation.

The 2013 Réseau Recommendations Report is available on the following sites:

Réseau: www.rssfes.on.ca

Champlain LHIN: www.champlainlhin.on.ca

South East LHIN: www.southeastlhin.on.ca

QUOTES

“We have reason to celebrate these achievements in healthcare because they ensure greater access to health care services in French. It is by forging links and aligning actions of the LHINs with those of the French-language Planning Entities, as seen in Eastern Ontario, that we are strengthening our ability to collect, analyze data and articulate a vision to get to a more efficient provision of services in French. This is a great success!”

- **Madeleine Meilleur, Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs, MPP, Ottawa-Vanier**

“We are very pleased with this outcome, which proves the relevance of our analyses, the degree of interaction between our regional bodies, and the openness of the LHINs to this partnership.”

- **Lucien Bradet, Réseau Chair**

“The South East LHIN values its collaboration with the Réseau, and this report is an essential tool that helps us to optimize our health service planning efforts for the region’s Francophones.”

- **Paul Huras, CEO South East LHIN**

“The Réseau’s recommendations illustrate the involvement of the Francophone community in health service planning. Our partnership with the Réseau is essential to the quality and the efficient delivery of French-language health services in the region, as it ensures that attention is paid to the planning and implementation of services for Francophones.”

- **Chantale LeClerc, CEO Champlain LHIN**

QUICK FACTS

- More than 600,000 Francophones live in Ontario, 4.8% of the population.
- 42% of Franco-Ontarians live in Eastern Ontario, representing approximately 250,000 Francophones.
- The Champlain LHIN has nearly 240,000 French speaking residents, representing 20% of its population.
- The Francophone population in the South East LHIN region is approximately 14,000 residents, just about 3% of its overall population.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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