



## A New Chairperson at Réseau santé albertain

**Dr. Stéphane-D. Perreault:** *Building leadership on strong momentum*

**Edmonton** – At its Annual General Meeting, on June 4, Réseau santé albertain (RSA) has elected a new Board of Directors chairperson.

Dr. Stéphane Perreault, a long-time member of the Alberta French community, succeeds Dr. Denis Vincent who was at the helm since 2003 and who leaves RSA stronger than ever with important achievements in the health system, especially at the level of primary health care.

“I have much respect for Dr. Vincent, for all that he has accomplished with the Board and the executive team of RSA. I want to build on the current momentum and encourage the growth and development of Alberta’s French community in the health sector” stated Stéphane Perreault.

The new chairperson brings to RSA a strong experience of community involvement from different areas. He has previously served as board member for both the regional and provincial level of the Association canadienne-française de l’Alberta (ACFA), and on the David Thompson Health Advisory Council of AHS. He has been a board member of the RSA Board for five years. Stéphane Perreault holds a Ph.D. in History and has been teaching at Red Deer College since 2007.

The new chairperson takes the helm of RSA at a moment of significant milestones and accomplishments. Throughout the year 2015-2016, the Alberta French community has witnessed progress in four areas:

- Strategic networking, especially in the political and institutional areas, where the French language is spoken in the health sector like never before, especially at the provincial level;
- Increased access to health services in the French language with, amongst other initiatives, the Clinique Francophone de Calgary – an initiative of the Calgary ACFA, and the training of over sixty Mental Health First Aiders by RSA with the support of the Provincial ACFA;
- Increased active offer of services in French throughout the province, thanks to the distribution of an innovative display tool to more than 900 medical clinics and health centres to help health professionals promote their ability to engage French-speaking patients in their language;
- Increased community engagement to ask for French services as testified by the thousands of visitors to our website, and an unprecedented participation to our health surveys and announcements, including Facebook.

Looking back on this last year, we can clearly see we are making progress and we are moving in the right direction. According to our new chairperson, these results demonstrate that we have successfully raised the awareness and mobilized the community and health care professionals.

The officers of the Board are still: Marjolaine Lavoie as Vice-Chair, Michael Tryon as Treasurer, Rachelle Bérubé as Secretary. The directors are Esdras Ngenzi, Nisrine Mokri and Oumar Lamana. According to the Board of Directors, this new fiscal year will be as exciting as the year 2015-2016. The Board members wish to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing president, Dr. Denis Vincent for his numerous contribution in time, energy and talent for the advancement of health services in French in Alberta. His pioneering work, be it at the provincial level with the creation of RSA or at the national level with Société Santé en Français will bear fruit beyond the present decade!

#### About RSA

Our provincial organisation has been actively involved in the development of services in French, collaborating with health care stakeholders at all levels to improve access to primary health care and mental health services. As the lead agency for the Francophone population, *Réseau santé albertain* provides timely, accurate and relevant input, data and insights to health and wellness policy- and decision-makers. This leads to more targeted health programming and improved outcomes.

[Annual Report 2015-2016](#)