

ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

HERE ARE THE HIGHLIGHTS
OF A REMARKABLY
PRODUCTIVE YEAR.

A YEAR OF RENEWAL

This past year proved to be a time of renewal. Funding support from Health Canada through *Société santé en français* was significantly increased. This allowed us to do critical work in such key areas as networking, improving access to French-language health services and community engagement.

Our management team was strengthened with the promotion of Pauline Légaré to the position of Assistant Director. In this expanded capacity, she provided strong support both to senior management and our Network's five major partners, namely the community, health care professionals, health care facilities, the education sector and government. We have also entered into new partnerships and agreements to conduct research and implement community engagement projects.

We adopted the major directions set out by *Société santé en français* in its strategic framework, thereby focusing our efforts on common key priorities. In this way, we can help ensure greater cohesiveness with the entire movement and continue to contribute to the development of French-language health services in those areas where we are actively involved.

STRATEGIC NETWORKING

★ CALGARY

We provided strategic support and guidance to the Calgary community in its efforts to develop French-language primary care services in the area.

★ HEALTH NAVIGATORS AS PART OF A VOLUNTEER-LED PROJECT

Collaborative work with CANAVUA remained an important part of our focus, so that patients can continue to receive valuable support as they navigate the health care system.

★ LIAISING WITH GOVERNMENT

Establishing and maintaining strategic links within the health care system continues to be a priority focus. Our representatives met with senior officials of Alberta Health Services to foster greater understanding. Discussions on key issues were also held with Alberta Health officials.

★ IMMIGRATION

Ethnocultural communities within the French-speaking population are an important client group in the area of health care. Our networking efforts therefore extend to provincial organizations involved in Francophone immigration.

ENGAGED COMMUNITIES

HEALTH CARE PROMOTION

We have delegated this project to the *Fédération du sport francophone de l'Alberta*. This organization has established close ties with Francophone school boards and Alberta Health Services leading to the creation of *Healthy School* committees. This is an inclusive model that welcomes community involvement.



INCREASED ACCESS TO FRENCH-LANGUAGE HEALTH SERVICES

★ INTERSECTORAL COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH

This group was formed in 2013 to oversee the implementation of the strategic plan. It regularly meets to take stock of the situation and decide on measures to take depending on available funding and the ability of its members to meet set objectives.

★ MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

Thanks to *Société santé en français*, we provided support for the training of mental health first aid instructors to work with youth and to the *Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta* to hold training workshops.

★ INTERSECTORAL COMMITTEE ON SENIORS' HEALTH

This group brings together key stakeholders from various sectors of activity to oversee the implementation of the strategic plan and determine next steps. The strategic plan was developed with the help of community organizations from across the province. Stakeholders gather throughout the year to discuss progress and enrich their collective knowledge base.

★ ACTIVE OFFER OF SERVICE

In an effort to encourage the active offer of French-language health services, *Réseau santé albertain* conducted a study on Primary Care Networks (PCNs) and how they operate. These findings will enable us to devise new forms of collaboration with PCNs seeking to increase the provision of primary care to the Francophone population.

We are also developing a media campaign to encourage French-speaking health care professionals working in the primary care sector to signal their ability to provide services in French.

★ ACTIVE DEMAND FOR SERVICE

Encouraging an active demand for service is also key. Indeed, the Francophone population must voice its need for linguistically appropriate health care. As a first step in our community engagement strategy, we conducted a consultation to identify the challenges surrounding the issue of accessibility and to solicit ideas. These findings will form the basis of a grassroots campaign to be rolled out in synch with the initiative aimed at encouraging practitioners to actively offer French-language health services.

SUPPORT FOR HUMAN RESOURCES

SAINT-THOMAS HEALTH CENTRE

Thanks to funding from Health Canada through *Société santé en français*, *Réseau santé albertain* will provide support to health care providers at the Saint-Thomas Health Centre either through the recruitment of nursing assistants and health care attendants trained in member colleges affiliated with the *Consortium national de formation en santé*, or by strengthening the French-language competencies of staff. This past year, we conducted a preliminary study to identify existing resources and initiatives in Francophone minority communities elsewhere in Canada. The findings will be used to map out effective support strategies over the next two years.

DEVELOPMENT OF MEDICAL RESOURCES IN A MINORITY SETTING

Our Network also provides support to the Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada, which received funding from Health Canada. The focus is on establishing ties between communities and faculties of medicine in an effort to create internship opportunities in a Francophone minority setting.

ABOUT US

Working to improve access to French-language health services across the province is our core mission.

We work closely with stakeholders and decision-makers within the health care system to develop linguistically appropriate care; we encourage health professionals to provide French-language health services; we spearhead health promotion and disease prevention initiatives; we engage the French-speaking population everywhere in the province in achieving and maintaining health through positive action.

French-language health care is essential... To our children, families, seniors and the community as a whole.

THAT'S THE NUMBER ONE GOAL IN EVERYTHING WE DO!

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