

NE LHIN Recognizes International Francophonie Day



Above (l to r): Johanne Labonté, French Language Officer with the North East LHIN and Sylvie Sylvestre, Cochrane Region Officer with the Réseau du mieux-être francophone du Nord de l'Ontario. The NE LHIN, North West LHIN, and the Réseau have a joint action plan to improve access, coordination and the sustainability of quality French language health services for Francophones in Northern Ontario.

March 20, 2018 — There are close to 370 million French-speakers in the world, approximately 125,000 of whom call Northeastern Ontario home (about 23% of the population). On the occasion of International Francophonie Day (March 20th, 2018), the North East LHIN is taking time to reflect on the contributions of Francophones to our region's linguistic and cultural diversity—as well as the importance of providing French Language Services in health care.

"Today we are joining in the celebrations to recognize the rich Francophone history and culture of our region," said Jeremy Stevenson, CEO of the NE LHIN. "The North East LHIN values its strong partnership with the Réseau du mieux-être francophone du Nord de l'Ontario and our collaborative work that is helping to increase access to health care for Francophone Northerners."

The North East LHIN and the Réseau actively promote the 'Active Offer' of French Language Services and are working with over 50 health service providers who are planning for the provision of French language services. Currently, French language services are provided by 42 designated health service providers in Northeastern Ontario.

The North East LHIN continues to work in partnership with the Réseau on an integrated approach to help more Northerners receive service in French. In March 2017, the NE LHIN, the North West LHIN, and the Réseau adopted an [FLS Toolkit](#) that health service providers can use to help with planning for offering services in French.

To learn more about how the NE LHIN is working to improve access to French Language Health Services in Northeastern Ontario, please visit: <http://nelhin.on.ca/fls.aspx>

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