

North East Local Health Integration Network (NE LHIN)

**TRANSLATING HEALTH INTO CARE
FOR ALL RESIDENTS OF NORTHEASTERN ONTARIO**

North East LHIN Supports French Language Health Planning Entity's Efforts

July 13, 2010 – Illness and aging know no language boundaries and that's why the North East LHIN is pleased to provide support to the French language health planning entity, **Réseau du mieux-être francophone du Nord de l'Ontario** in the amount of \$180,000 to initiate a community engagement process to work on behalf of the more than 125,000 Francophones in the North East LHIN region.

The entity will serve both the North East and North West LHINs. In addition to funding the entity's community engagement activities, it has also been determined that three of the Ministry's staff will transfer to the North East LHIN to assist the LHIN and the entity on efforts that ensure the health needs of Francophones are being met.

The North East LHIN district has the largest number of French-speaking community members by region in Ontario, comprising more than 24 percent of the total population.

"We want to have successes by the end of the year," says Fabien Hébert, Co-Chair of the entity along with Gaëtane Pharand. "We would like to see the development of a mechanism to get feedback from the Francophone population and we need to have a better understanding of the health status of the Francophone population in Northeastern Ontario. Having a sounding board to ensure the strategies we are recommending to the LHIN are the right ones for the population is a step in the right direction."

The planning entity will provide the LHINs with guidance on engaging the local Francophone community, determining their health needs and priorities, identifying francophone health services and health care providers now available, and improving access to French language health services in the area.

"We are pleased to provide the entity with this funding to help in their consultations and we look forward to receiving their advice", said Louise Paquette, CEO of the NE LHIN.

In combination with other recent NE LHIN efforts to increase awareness of French Language Health Services (FLHS) and the requirements of the FLHS Act, this is another step forward to ensuring health and wellness for all within the LHIN.