

## Health networks from Atlantic Canada and Quebec gather in Halifax

**Bedford, December 9, 2016** – The French-language health networks from Atlantic Canada part of the Société Santé en français (SSF) and the English-language health networks from Quebec’s Community Health and Social Services Network (CHSSN) gathered in Halifax on December 6 and 7 for two days of meetings. In all, 20 people representing 14 health networks in the Atlantic provinces and Eastern Quebec took part.

The objectives of the meetings were to:

- Become acquainted with the tools, resources and tactics used by networks in Atlantic Canada and the CHSSN’s networks.
- Identify potential avenues for collaboration between the networks in Atlantic Canada.
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Representatives from the Atlantic Canadian and CHSSN networks who participated in the meetings.

The participants took part in collaborative meetings, met with important players in French-language health care in the Halifax area and attended presentations on various topics, including:

- How the IWK Health Centre coordinates its bilingual services and actively offers services in French, presented by Lisa Drisdelle, bilingual services coordinator at the IWK Health Centre.

- Language standards, presented by Gilles Vienneau from the Société Santé et Mieux-être en français du Nouveau-Brunswick.
- Health promotion, presented by Barbara Losier from the Mouvement Acadien des Communautés en Santé du Nouveau-Brunswick and Maya Bélanger, official languages consultant at the Public Health Agency of Canada.

The participating networks were very satisfied with the meetings and were able to establish a number of potential avenues for future collaboration and projects, as well as to make new contacts. Comments from participants included:

“Loved meeting everyone and learning the reality in the francophone communities outside Quebec.”

“Would be great if the Société santé en français and CHSSN could meet again in the future.”

“What a wonderful, inspiring and constructive meeting.”

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