

Community Mobilization in Central and Southwestern Ontario for French-Language Health Services

Brampton - The steering committee of the "Notre santé, notre priorité" project is proud to announce the launch of its innovative project in the Francophone community of Central and Southwestern Ontario. The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) has awarded a \$350,000 grant over two years for this initiative, which will allow for increased participation by the Francophone community in planning French-language health services.

This is a joint project involving three community organizations: the Centre de services de santé - Peel et Halton (CSSPH); the Association canadienne-française de l'Ontario (ACFO) London-Sarnia; and the Comité santé Centre-Est (ACFO Durham-Peterborough and the Fédération des aînés et des retraités francophones de l'Ontario).

"This is an exciting initiative that will help the Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) involve communities more fully in the planning and integration of local health services," said Helen Burstyn, Chair of the OTF Board of Directors. "The dialogue promoted through this effort will enable French-language services to be identified and the range of services to be increased. That means more and better services to the Francophone community."

The project will enhance the ability of local communities to work more effectively with government organizations such as the LHINs. "We are counting strongly on this initiative to support the work of volunteers and strengthen their ability to influence planning of French-language health services in our regions," said Carmen Gauthier, President of the project steering committee and CSSPH.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation is an agency of the Government of Ontario. For over 25 years, the Foundation has supported the growth and vitality of communities across the province. It continues to strengthen the capacity of the volunteer sector through investments in community-based initiatives. For more information, please visit www.trilliumfoundation.org.

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Centre de services de santé - Peel et Halton (CSSPH) <http://www.csante-peel-halton.com>
ACFO London-Sarnia <http://www.acfo-ls.org>
Comité santé Centre-Est (ACFO-DP - FAFO) <http://francodurham-peterboro.ca>