



LE RÉSEAU DU MIEUX-ÊTRE  
**FRANCOPHONE**  
DU NORD DE L'ONTARIO

## Press release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Société Santé en français 2018-2023 Program Launch**

**Sudbury, June 13, 2018** – *Le Réseau le Réseau du mieux-être francophone du Nord de l'Ontario (Réseau)* and Société Santé en français (SSF) are proud to present their five year plan.

*Healthbound 18-23 – Toward Access* continues the work that has been underway across Canada over a number of years. A number of systemic structuring and rallying initiatives were successfully implemented in Northern Ontario thanks to the financial support received from Health Canada. Those initiatives stemmed from major nation-wide projects involving SSF, the territorial, provincial and regional French Language Health Networks of Canada, and their partners: policy makers, health managers, health practitioners, academic institutions and communities.

This collaborative approach is central to the new plan, which has five **targeted goals**:

- Accessible, adapted and actively offered French-language health services and programs in Canada.
- Mobilized, equipped and valorized human resources offering French-language health services.
- Health establishments, programs, and policies demonstrate the capacity to offer quality and safe French-language health services in accordance with language of service standards.
- Systematic collection of the language variable by provinces and territories, thereby providing access to evidence-based planning and decision-making.
- Francophone and Acadian minority communities become engaged and equipped to take charge of their health and well-being in French.

The *Réseau* develops solutions adapted to the needs and realities of the communities of Northern Ontario. The next five years will demonstrate more clearly than ever the results of transformations in health care systems and policies leading to better access to quality French-language services.

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As mentioned by Diane Quintas, Executive Director of the Réseau, «*The Réseau is proud to be able to work closely with the SSF to serve and meet the needs of the Francophone community. With funding for our projects such as the long-term care study and the interactive online training course on active offer, the Réseau has been able to support Health Service Providers, who as a result, are able to provide improved services to the Francophone communities in Northern Ontario.*»

Clear communication between health professionals and patients and their families is critical to quality service. More than one million Francophones living in minority communities have limited access to quality health care services in their language, which can sometimes put them at very serious risks.

Société Santé en français is a dynamic national association that works to promote French-language health care in Francophone and Acadian minority communities in Canada. SSF coordinates the 16 regional, provincial and territorial French Language Health Networks in their efforts to engage partners interested in ensuring better access to French-language health care in every province and territory where French is not the majority language. For additional information, go to [www.santefrancais.ca](http://www.santefrancais.ca).

The *Réseau*, in collaboration with its partners, plans, networks and engages with communities to improve access and equity to French language health services.

For more information on the *Réseau*, please visit our web site [www.rmefno.ca](http://www.rmefno.ca).

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