

## 2020-2021 Activity Report

# A Landmark Year in Our History



National Initiatives



Provincial Initiatives



Regional Initiatives



Expertise and Collaboration



French Health Network of Central  
Southwestern Ontario



Réseau franco-santé  
du Sud de l'Ontario

[www.francosantesud.ca](http://www.francosantesud.ca)



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# Introduction

2020–2021 was an unprecedented year for most of us. The French Health Network of Central Southwestern Ontario (the French Health Network) did not escape the effects of the pandemic but nevertheless successfully adapted to these unusual circumstances. COVID-19 forced us to re-evaluate our initiatives to focus on desired impacts. It also allowed us to build on our strengths:

- A solid team demonstrating strong leadership and a mastery of their respective projects already well adapted to the reality of virtual work
- A primary importance given to human issues leading to concrete impacts in the field
- Project plans accounting for contingencies.

The French Health Network is also proud to see the results of its long-term collaborative endeavours come to fruition in our region, whether it be the over 300 new long-term care beds for Francophones, the launch of the national eQUITY Link platform to better support the provision of French language services, or the continuation of the Welcoming Community initiatives that strengthen and promote links among Francophone professionals, as well as health and social services organizations.

Although the pandemic was a driving force for innovation and outreach beyond our traditional regions, it also revealed several shortcomings: inequitable access to care linked to numerous social determinants of health, systemic racism, lack of support for families and in certain sectors of the health system, including community and long-term care. These challenges can only be addressed collectively. The French Health Network is committed to supporting French language health services for our seniors and the wellbeing of Ontario's Francophone children and families. Additionally, we are dedicated to ensuring that health systems pay

attention and respond to the needs of Francophone immigrants in the coming years.

The French Health Network would also like to underscore the resilience of the health care workers who have been on the front lines of this pandemic for over a year. We are grateful for their sacrifices and hard work and realize that this year will be forever etched into human history.

We continue to believe in collaboration and would like to highlight the collective commitment of our Board of Directors, our team and our partners to improving health systems for Francophones of all origins, with a view to making improvements that will benefit the entire population of Southern Ontario.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aliou Sène', with a stylized flourish underneath.

Aliou Sène,  
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Lantaigne', written in a cursive style.

Julie Lantaigne,  
Executive Director



# National Initiatives

## eEQUITY Link

Help health, social and community services managers and government officials acquire the knowledge and skills they need for providing better access to French language health services on a regular and permanent basis.

**eEQUITY Link** – A national initiative that supports implementation of French language health services  
[Visit the platform.](#)

This national project led by the French Health Network combines a growing number of integrated resources to provide guidance, for which we developed a unique platform, in conjunction with personalized support from the French Language Health Networks of Canada. The goal is to increase the number of health partners that have implemented proven strategies.

### Impacts – Resource Component

- [Free platform](#) that brings together [key resources](#) pertaining to workforce, organizations and health authorities that have been validated by experts and users.

- Available self-assessment for building a [clear picture of an organization's current status](#) with regard to French language health services based on [national standards](#).
- Guided process for identifying future actions through the development of a personalized [French Language Health Services Plan](#).

## Impacts – Support Component

- 7 regional eQUITY Link champions from the French Language Health Networks of Canada and allies trained to provide support to partner organizations.
- National process implemented and evaluated for training future support teams.
- 3 health organizations and 3 government agencies have started to benefit from these regional support services.



### [Promotional Video](#)



**Meeting of first support team on January 20, 2021**

## Franco-santé

Identify bilingual students attending English-language post-secondary health programs and equip them to provide services in French to Francophone and Acadian minority communities once they begin practicing their professions.



**Franco-santé** – A national initiative underway in Southern Ontario that equips Francophone and Francophile students

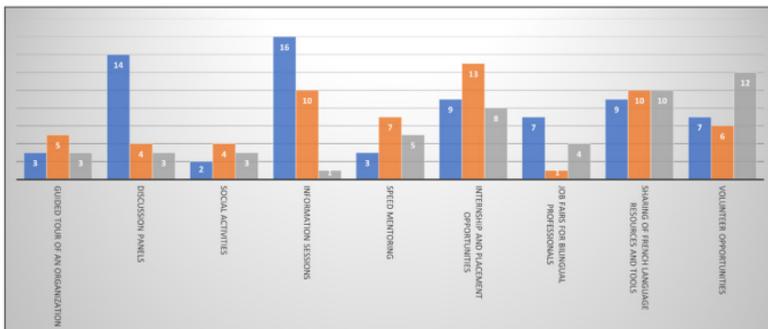
## Franco-DOC

Identify and mobilize Francophone and Francophile students in medical programs and equip them to provide safe and effective health services in French



### Impacts — Franco-santé and Franco-DOC

- 10 mentorships, discussion groups and resource sharing activities between students and French-speaking professionals delivered through [Welcoming Community](#) initiatives in the five regions of Southern Ontario.
- 142 new Francophone and Francophile students in Canada (126 from Southern Ontario) identified in English-language colleges and universities.
- Students' needs and priorities identified so that strategies can be implemented to improve their French language skills in different fields of study.



### Responses to the question on choice of activities to improve French language skills.

This information will be used to create networking activities aligned with identified needs.



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PARTNERS MARCH 29, 2021

## Serving Francophone minority communities

By Varsity Content Lab

● ● ●

[Article: The Varsity – March 29, 2021](#)



# Provincial Initiatives

## Francophone Immigration Health

Build the capacity of professionals in the health and immigrant settlement sectors to meet the health needs of Francophone immigrants.



[Francophone Immigration Health](#)  
(Santé immigration francophone) – Build Capacity to Safely Receive Francophone immigrants.



**Launch of the Francophone Immigration Health Initiative**  
[Article : le métropolitain – March 29, 2021](#)  
(only available in French)

In Ontario, the French Health Network of Central Southwestern Ontario manages this provincial initiative on behalf of the French Language Health Services Network of Eastern Ontario ([the Réseau](#)) and the *Réseau du mieux-être francophone du Nord de l'Ontario* ([RMEFNO](#)).

### Impacts

- Identification of primary issues in health system navigation for Francophone immigrants.
- 14 conversations with 21 key stakeholders in the immigration and health sectors to validate the issues.
- Model of a Francophone immigrant's typical journey through the health system developed to improve the understanding of its complexity.
- Recommendations and 4 years action plan for the implementation of strategies for active offer training, recruitment and retention of human resources and data collection to make health system navigation easier for Francophone immigrants in Ontario.

## Identify Yourself!

Promoting and distributing items to identify French-speaking staff to highlight available French language services.



### [Identify Yourself!](#) – Making your Francophone and Francophile workforce visible

Photo provided by the *Réseau du mieux-être francophone du Nord de l'Ontario*

## Impact

- The items are liked and used by students and staff working in health and social services

*"I greatly appreciated the Je parle français items and I am proud to wear them during my clinical placements! I completed the survey and I am eager to hear more from the Franco-Santé project."*

Cynthia Larche, BSc Psychology (she/her) | B.Sc. Psychologie (elle),  
Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing, University of Toronto

## Health in Early Years (HEY)

Reduce early childhood health inequities in Francophone and Acadian minority communities.

**Health in Early Years (HEY) – Mieux-être des jeunes enfants francophones = adultes outillés « santé mentale 0 à 4 »**  
[Visit the website](#) (only available in French).

In Ontario, the *Réseau du mieux-être francophone du Nord de l'Ontario* manages this project for the entire province and provides support to the *Association francophone à l'éducation des services à l'enfance de l'Ontario (aféseo)* and [Health Nexus](#) for the implementation of the Healthy Early Years Program in Ontario. As provincial partners, the French Language Services Network of Eastern Ontario and the French Health Network of Central Southwestern Ontario facilitate project implementation in their respective regions.



# Regional Initiatives

## Welcoming Community 2.0

Support the five regions in the development of skills and strategies for implementing local welcoming activities



As project manager, the French Health Network encourages knowledge mobilization, supports the sharing and implementation of best practices and the exchange of expertise among communities.

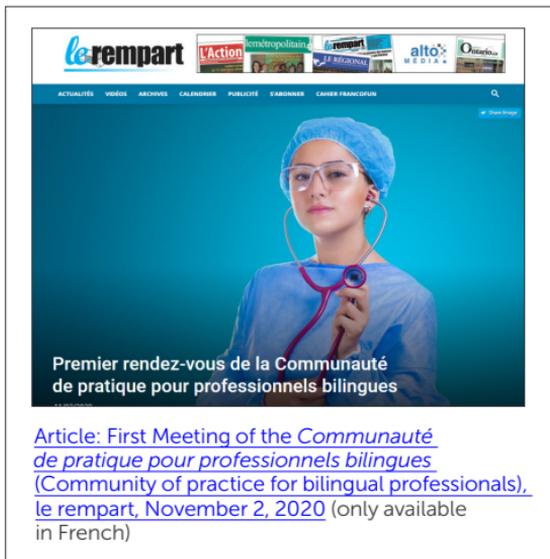
1. Windsor and London – [Communauté de pratique pour professionnels bilingues](#) (Community of practice for bilingual professionals) (CPPB)
2. Waterloo, Wellington, Guelph Regions – [WWG Round Table](#)
3. Niagara Region – [Health Committee of the Niagara Interagency Table](#)
4. Mississauga Halton Region – [Mississauga Halton French Language Services Community of Practice](#) (FLS CoP)
5. North Simcoe Muskoka Region – [North Simcoe Muskoka French Language Services Community of Practice](#) (CoP)

## Impacts

- 10 activities to facilitate the integration of future professionals in the five regions.
- Creation of tools and incentives to engage students.
- Identification of 6 overall recommendations in the [summative evaluation](#) of the Welcoming Community project.
- [Reproducibility tool](#) summarizing the steps in creating a CoP compatible with the Welcoming Community 2.0 approach.
- Training modules on the implementation and smooth operation of Communities of Practice that will be available on [eQUITY Link](#).



**[Webinar](#)**  
The Communities of Practice Approach, a useful tool for collaborative work, December 9, 2020 (recording available only in French).



## Improving Access to Health Services for Seniors

Promoting [A Guide for Planning and Providing Francophone Long-Term Care Services](#) and supporting adaptation and implementation of the optimal model by service providers through the [new implementation manual](#).

### Impacts

- Support services to [Fairview Mennonite Home](#) (Cambridge) for its application for 17 new priority access beds for Francophones. (Collaborators: *Entité<sup>2</sup> de planification des services de santé en français*, Waterloo Wellington LHIN, Alzheimer Society of Waterloo Wellington and community representatives).
- Support services for the development of 9 mini training modules on the active offer and an adaptation of the [Fairview Seniors Community](#) website into French.

- Support services to [Bennett Centre Long Term Care](#) (Georgetown) for their application for 32 new priority access beds for Francophones and the sharing of advice, the [guide](#) and [human resources strategies](#) to facilitate the provision of French language services.



Photo credit: [kitchenertoday.com/Stock photo](#)

### **Great News!**

On March 18, 2021, the [Ontario government](#) announced the allocation of funding for the construction of 305 new beds with priority access for Francophones in Southern Ontario that included the French Health Network's partners: Bennett Centre Long Term Care, Fairview Mennonite Home and the Foyer Richelieu Welland Inc for 256 beds in Toronto.

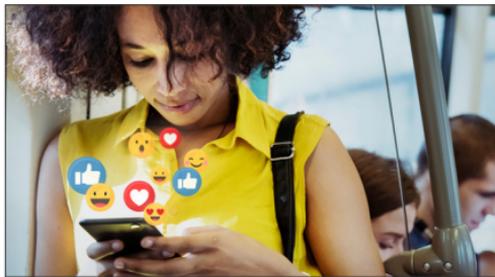
### **Newspaper articles**

[Article: Four LTC facilities in WR will get 281 additional spaces, kitchenertoday.com, March 18, 2021](#)

[Article: Bennett Village Awarded Ministry Funding for LTC Redevelopment Project, Action Up News, March 19, 2021](#)

## Increase Access to Information and Resources

Promoting access to information on Francophone communities and French language health services initiatives to health and social services organizations and workforces.



Follow us [@RFSSO\(Twitter Fr\)](#), [@FrenchHealth \(Twitter Eng\)](#), [@RFSSO \(Facebook\)](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#)

### Impacts

- 5 campaigns developed and implemented to promote ongoing initiatives.
- Daily distribution of resources, guides, trainings and job and placement postings.
- Outreach to 131,648 on Facebook and 52,160 on Instagram (people reached by posts).
- Over 800 followers on Twitter.



# Expertises and Collaboration

## Collaboration to improve the health system

Providing our expertise in needs analysis and making recommendations regarding a variety of national, provincial and regional strategies to increase the offer of French language health services to meet the needs of Francophones in a tangible way.

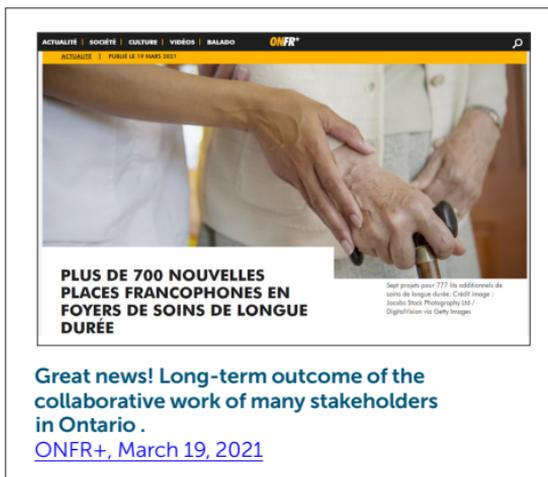
- Connecture Canada
- Council of experts for Ontario Health Teams
- French Language Services Office of the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
- Groupe Média TFO
- Institut du Savoir Monfort
- McMaster University – Health Forum
- Ministry of Child and Youth Services
- Ministry of Francophone Affairs
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Long-Term Care
- Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility
- My Tools for Care (MT4C) – In Care
- Official Languages Centre of Excellence (OLCE Initiative)
- Ombudsman Ontario – French Language Services Commissioner
- Regroupement des Entités de planification des services de santé en français (6 French Language Health Planning Entities)
- Ontario Unit of the Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR)
- Université de l'Ontario français (UOF)

## Partners

The French Health Network wishes to highlight the continuous collaboration of its many partners from the five key sectors of health care: communities, policy makers, managers and their health and social services organizations, academic institutions and health practitioners. This model of collaboration leads to effective networking among partners and better coordination of activities for health care in French.

*If you want to go fast, walk alone but if you want to go far, walk together*

*African proverb*



The image shows a screenshot of a news article from ONFR+. The article features a photograph of a person's hands being supported by another person's hands, with a cane visible. The headline reads: **PLUS DE 700 NOUVELLES PLACES FRANCOPHONES EN FOYERS DE SOINS DE LONGUE DURÉE**. Below the headline, there is a small text block: *Sept projets pour 777 lits additionnels de soins de longue durée. Crédit image: Jessica Stock Photography Ltd / DigitalVision via Getty Images.*

**Great news! Long-term outcome of the collaborative work of many stakeholders in Ontario .**  
[ONFR+, March 19, 2021](#)



# French Health Network of Central Southwestern Ontario

## Board of Directors 2020-2021

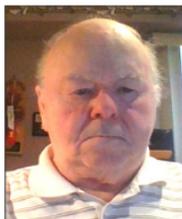
### Executive Committee



**Aliou Sène**  
President



**Linda Jussaume**  
Vice-President



**Yvan Poulin**  
Treasurer



**JoAnne Chalifour**  
Secretary

### Administrators



**Christelle J. Bony**



**François-Pierre  
Gauvin**



**Jacques Kenny**



**Pénayori Félicité  
Ouattara**

## 2020-2021 Team



**Julie Lantaigne**  
Executive Director



**Geneviève  
Laferrière**  
Project  
Coordinator



**Nancy Larivière**  
Project  
Coordinator



**Diane Brezden**  
Finance  
Coordinator



**Linda Johnston**  
Administrative  
Support Officer



**Patou Cathy  
Oumarou**  
Communications  
Officer



**Darya Eshaghi**  
Project Officer

## Recognition

The projects / initiatives of the French Health Network of Central Southwestern Ontario in collaboration with the SSF are funded by **Health Canada** under the *Action Plan for Official Languages 2018-2023: Investing in our Future*. The opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of Health Canada.

The project Health in Early Years (HEY) is made possible thanks to financial contribution from the **Public Health Agency of Canada**.

The Francophone Immigration Health projects are funded by **Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada**.

WITH THE SUPPORT



Société **Santé**  
en français



*Financial contribution from*

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**Réseau franco-santé**  
du Sud de l'Ontario

*Better Communication  
for Better Health*