



Update on Franco Doc Project Activities

Summer 2015

September 29th, 2015

Réalisé avec le soutien de Santé Canada

Dear members of the Franco Doc project steering committee, members of the Faculty-Community liaison committee, representatives of medical faculties and members Francophone community health networks,

We would like to thank you for your enthusiastic support of the project. In an effort to ensure that everyone is aware of all the latest developments, here is an update on the project's progress.

Objective #1: Identify Francophone and Francophile students in English-language faculties of medicine

The process of identifying students is ongoing and will be completed in most faculties by September 30th 2015. Many faculties are already using a formal mechanism to identify such students and have gathered an impressive number of responses. If you have not yet identified Francophone students, we ask that you do so as quickly as possible. To assist you, we have appended a memorandum listing various methods used by the faculties (Appendix #1).

Objective #2: Provide students with preparatory training and activities

Several training sessions have been developed in association with Francophone community health networks. Networking activities, presentations on the services provided by Francophone community health networks, cultural activities and many other types of activities have been planned for the year.

Objective #3: Placement of students in community-based experiential training

Approximately fourteen students took part in clinical placements this summer, primarily at the University of Toronto faculty and the Northern Ontario School of Medicine. Some preliminary work has been done to identify existing opportunities for the year 2015-2016.

Objective #4: Community-faculty liaison committee

Project highlights for each faculty-community liaison committee:

Memorial University

- Identification of 28 Francophone and Francophile students
- Planning of student training activities for the 2015-2016 school year

Dalhousie University

- Identification of 20 Francophone students
- Creation of a Francophone student group

- Identification of a faculty representative to support the committee
- Training sessions by Maritime Francophone community health networks (NS, PEI, NB)

University of Ottawa

- Connection between Francophone and Francophile students in the English stream and activities in the faculty's French stream
- Creation of a link between the University of Ottawa faculty and Nunavut

Queen's University

- Connection between the faculty's Francophone student group (Franco Med) and the office of the undergraduate dean; the faculty will now be providing the Franco Doc group with formal support
- Ongoing discussion of potential clinical rotations at the Kingston military base and during the Eastern Regional Medical Education Program (ERMEP) Community Week

University of Toronto

- Identification of 28 students, not including first-year students who just started in early September
- Creation and organization of training activities throughout the year with the French health network of Central Southwestern Ontario
- Job shadowing opportunities for students and identification of new clinical placement locations

McMaster University

- Presentation of faculty-community liaison committee to the faculty
- The identification of Francophone students and clinical opportunities in French will soon be completed
- Planning done on activity sessions for learners

University of Western Ontario

- Presentation of faculty-community liaison committee to the faculty
- Identification of over 180 learners from Y1 to Y3 that are Francophones or Francophiles wishing to take part in activities and placements in French at Western
- Connection with the French Studies department and their francophone activities
- Talks initiated between the faculty and health centres providing services in French about accommodating students

Northern Ontario School of Medicine

- Organization of clinical placements in family medicine
- The faculty and Francophone community health network are working together to establish seats specifically for Francophones in certain teaching sites

University of Manitoba

- Identification of clinical opportunities available in medical specialties
- Organization of activity for students about physician well-being

University of Saskatchewan

- Addition of a Francophone student to the faculty-community liaison committee
- Identification of 19 Francophones and Francophones learners in Y1
- Planning of activities for students in accordance with their school calendar

University of Calgary

- Identification of over 200 French-speaking clinicians practising in Calgary; these physicians will be contacted by the faculty to determine whether they are interested in taking students for clinical placements
- Planning underway for several cultural and training activities for students

University of Alberta

- Identification of Francophone students and clinical opportunities in French will soon be completed

University of British Columbia

- Identification of 59 Francophone and Francophile students, not including first-year students who just started in early September
- Discussion about including clinical placements located in the Yukon
- Creation of a half-day language training activity in medical French supervised by a Francophone preceptor

Franco Doc presentation

- Annual general meeting of the CFMS (Canadian Federation of Medical Students): Next Saturday in Windsor/
- Visit to McMaster and Western to meet new committees
- Meeting with SSF on October 15 in Ottawa for “Connexion 2015”
- NOSM Francophone Symposium, Thursday, September 24
- Médecins francophones du Canada, presentation at forum and meeting with board of directors
- Submitted a proposal to CCME 2016 for an oral presentation and poster

Next phases of the project:

- Continue identifying French-speaking clinical preceptors
- Identify opportunities for clinical learning within faculties of medicine and post these opportunities for the students who have been identified
- Working together, faculties and health networks must plan training sessions, etc.
- Determine permanent methods for identifying Francophone and Francophile students



Memorandum

Methods for identifying Francophone students

July 30th, 2015

Réalisé avec le soutien de Santé Canada

Dear members of the faculty-community liaison committees and the members of the Franco Doc project steering committee:

To help achieve the first objective of the Franco Doc project, which is to "*Identify and mobilize Francophone and Francophile students in English-language faculties of medicine in Canada,*" we are proposing several methods to help you identify Francophone students in your respective faculties.

We would appreciate your assistance so we can determine which method best suits your faculty. Please let us know which method you intend to use during the new 2015-2016 school year to determine the number of Francophone students. We strongly suggest that you begin this identification process during the first few days of classes. We request that you take note of the number of students identified as well as the methods used. This will help us determine which methods are effective and how they can be improved over the life of the project.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

Philippe Leblanc
Coordinator, Franco Doc Project

Method 1: Have the office of the undergraduate and/or postgraduate dean request self-evaluations from students

Example 1: Message sent from the faculties of medicine

Undergrad message:

The Association of Faculties of Medicine has launched a project to help medical students with existing French language skills learn to provide medical services in French. To this end, we are currently planning activities such as student interest groups, service learning opportunities, including phase 1-4 placements, and residency rotations in French-speaking practices.

To help us plan, we are trying to identify the number of students with French skills who may be interested in these activities. Please email Faculty representative name (email@email.ca) by MM DD, 2015, with the following information:

- *Name and year*
- *Do you speak French, and if so, at what level (e.g. high school French, fluently bilingual, etc.)?*
- *Are you interested in participating in these activities (student interest groups, service learning, placements, rotations, etc.)?*

Post-grad message:

The Association of Faculties of Medicine has launched a project to help medical trainees with existing French language skills learn to provide medical services in French. To this end, we are currently planning activities such as student interest groups and residency rotations in French-speaking practices.

To help us plan, we are trying to identify the number of residents with French skills who may be interested in these activities. Please email Faculty representative name (email@email.ca) by MM DD, 2015, with the following information:

- *Name, residency program and year*
- *Do you speak French, and if so, at what level (e.g. high school French, fluently bilingual, etc.)?*
- *Are you interested in participating in these activities (student interest groups, residency rotations, etc.)?*

Effectiveness of method #1:

- The Memorial University Faculty of Medicine successfully identified 28 students in 2014-2015.
- The University of Toronto Faculty of Medicine successfully identified over 30 students in 2014-2015.

Method 2: Student self-evaluation during orientation

Some faculties prefer to ask students to complete a self-evaluation form to identify language proficiency during orientation week.

Appendix 1 has a copy of the form used by the Northern Ontario School of Medicine.

Method 3: Have your faculty's student association request self-evaluations from students

While this method is similar to the first, it is conducted in partnership with your faculty's student association.

Method 4: Ask applicants to identify any languages spoken during the admissions process

Some faculties request information about their applicants' linguistic abilities during the admissions process. These methods vary. To ensure that students continue to be identified and that there is a long-term commitment to identifying and integrating health professionals into official language minority communities, we suggest that you consider incorporating questions about linguistic abilities into your faculty's application form.

- The University of Manitoba Faculty of Medicine requests proof of language proficiency as one of the required documents submitted with the application. In addition, students who apply to the faculty's "Bilingual" stream must undergo an interview in French.
- The University of Ottawa Faculty of Medicine determines applicants' level of French proficiency during admissions interviews.
- The Northern Ontario School of Medicine requires students to identify their level of French proficiency on the application form.

