

ACTIVITY REPORT

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Réseau franco-santé
du Sud de l'Ontario





MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This year has been marked by both renewal and transition for The French Language Health Network (RFSSO). The Board of Directors has taken important steps to strengthen its governance, including welcoming three new members whose expertise will enrich our mandate. We also conducted a review and update of our committee structure to better align with our priorities, alongside a revision of our Board Member Orientation kit to support effective onboarding and engagement.

We will bid a heartfelt farewell to our current Executive Director, Julie Lantaigne, who will retire in June after 14 years of dedicated service. Her leadership has been defined by energy, passion, and an unwavering commitment to advancing French-language health services across the province as well as pan Canadian. Her impact on the Health Network and the communities we serve will be lasting.

At the same time, a key milestone has been the appointment of a new Executive Director, JoAnne Chalifour who will begin her role on June 22, 2026. With over 30 years of experience and a long-standing connection to the Network and the Société Santé en français (SSF), she brings deep knowledge and a strong commitment that will guide us into the future. On behalf of the Board, I am pleased to extend a warm welcome to her and look forward to working together to advance our mission.

On behalf of the Board, I extend sincere gratitude for the team's remarkable contributions and wish Julie every success in the years ahead. We look forward with confidence to this new chapter and remain committed to strengthening access to high-quality French-language health services.

Over the past year, we have made significant progress across many areas of health care, particularly in long-term care. Our Network is increasingly recognized as a trusted partner in advancing French-language services. We are currently supporting the development of two long-term care homes: Foyer Richelieu-Toronto site and Trille Blanc.

The Ministry continues to rely on our team as expert advisors in several health care strategies. Coaching and mentoring also remained a priority throughout the year, particularly in supporting the transition to a new integrated provincial orientation. We also helped bring best practices to the provincial level to strengthen collaboration across organizations.

We were proud to strengthen our partnership with Franco Queer, helping raise awareness of the needs of Francophone 2SLGBTQIA+ communities and ensuring our staff are better equipped to support this clientele. Another key focus this year was connecting university programs with health care providers. Through virtual events, we linked students with human resources specialists across various medical fields, helping address the growing need for French-speaking health care professionals.

I am extremely proud of what we have accomplished during my fourteen years with this organization. Choosing to retire was not an easy decision. I would like to sincerely thank our partners, collaborators, Board of Directors, and especially our dedicated team. I leave with confidence knowing the organization is supported by a strong and committed team that will continue to advance our mission.



Linda Jussaume



Julie Lantaigne

03 ABOUT US

 Formal high-level partnerships with health and immigration leaders at national, provincial and regional levels.	 Key player at government level, invited to advise ministers in the health sector.	 Implementation of the eQUITY Link platform which, through a progressive approach, provides pan-Canadian support for health care managers.
 A small, dedicated team providing high quality services with low turnover.	 Concrete networking with the five main partner groups.	 A leader in the pan-Canadian French-language health movement in collaboration with 15 provincial and territorial networks.



Réseau franco-santé
du Sud de l'Ontario



Société Santé
en français



Santé
Canada

Health
Canada

04 OUR IMPACT

2025-2026 IN NUMBERS

SUPPORT FOR SERVICES

64 SUPPORT INITIATIVES | **58** AGENCIES AFFECTED + **30** PARTNERSHIPS

IN PARTICULAR

30 OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION | **350** COLLEAGUES

51 OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED | 25 WEBINARS | 15 LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES | 11 COMMITTEES

217 PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION | 17 TEACHING RESOURCES | 50 NEW CONTENT | 150 PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS

TO HELP

302,650 FRANCOPHONES

05 NETWORKING

During the 2025–2026 financial year, the French Health Network of Central Southwestern Ontario (RFSSO) continued to pursue its strategic priorities aimed at improving equitable access to French-language health services.

The year was marked by **a significant strengthening of strategic partnerships**. The Network exceeded its targets by establishing and maintaining collaborations with key stakeholders, particularly in the areas of long-term care, Francophone immigration, community health and service planning. Notable collaborations include those with Thrive Group, the FORCES-santé Network, the Métis Nation of Ontario, as well as various Francophone immigration networks and community organizations. These partnerships have helped to increase the Network's influence in key discussions shaping the healthcare system.

The campaign conducted as part of Black History Month helped to promote health equity and celebrate the diversity of Francophone communities. The Network also participated in initiatives addressing health disparities, cultural safety, and the integration of internationally trained health professionals. These actions strengthened partners' capacity to use data and knowledge to inform their decisions.

The RFSSO continued its efforts **to provide concrete support for improving access to French-language services**. Several initiatives were carried out with organizations such as Community Living Centers, community health centers, long-term care facilities and various regional partners (particularly in the Niagara, Windsor and London regions).



The Network **also contributed to projects related to the recruitment and retention** of bilingual staff, service planning and the improvement of data collection tools for French-language services. Among these initiatives, is a video produced to highlight bilingual healthcare professionals working in French-speaking or bilingual settings. They share their career paths, their experiences and the importance of raising awareness among future healthcare professionals studying at English-speaking institutions about the opportunities to work in French.

Link (French only):

[Oser le français en santé en Ontario: Parcours et témoignages de professionnels.](#)

In terms of **advocacy and political engagement**, the Network maintained an active presence with government and decision-making bodies, including collaborations with Ontario Health, provincial ministries and advisory committees. These engagements helped to highlight the needs of Francophone communities and contribute to the development of policies and initiatives promoting access to French-language services.

These results demonstrate **sustained progress towards the program's objectives**, particularly in terms of capacity building, increased collaboration between partners and a gradual improvement in access to health services in French. The Network remains well positioned to continue its work and consolidate its achievements over the coming financial year.

06 EQUITY LINK

During the 2025–2026 financial year, **the equity LINK initiative saw significant growth**, both in terms of its reach and its impact on other networks, partners and managers within the health sector. All of these activities helped to improve access to high-quality healthcare services in French for official language minority communities (OLMCs).

Over the course of the year, **several outcomes far exceeded expectations**. Dissemination of knowledge products, media coverage and support services all saw a significant increase of over 100%. These results reflect the growing interest in the resources and expertise developed by equity LINK (see the poster on the following page).

The initiative **has enjoyed significant growth in its pan-Canadian reach** thanks to the roll-out of structured and sustained media campaigns. Over 50 new content items were produced, including presentations, newsletters, promotional tools and social media posts. These efforts have helped to increase engagement among partners and users across the country.

The year was highlighted by the development of at least **17 educational tools**, including guides, training plans and learning models. National training cohorts on the basic principles of equity were also established to strengthen participants' knowledge and skills. In addition, several specialized training courses and webinars were developed to support healthcare providers and organizations in integrating practices that promote linguistic equity and the active offer of French services.

Equity LINK also strengthened its support for healthcare networks, community partners and government bodies. **This support has enabled several organizations to adopt concrete strategies** in improving services in French, as well as the recruitment and retention of bilingual staff.

National communities of practice have continued to play an important role in promoting the sharing of expertise, peer learning and capacity building among healthcare managers and professionals.

Several improvements have been made to the equity LINK platform to **ensure strengthened national governance and coordination**, including optimizing navigation and monitoring tools, as well as the transition to the Société santé en français.

In conclusion, **the results for 2025–2026 demonstrate that the equity LINK initiative is now well established at the national level**, with an increased capacity to influence organizational practices. It serves as a key driver for sustainably improving access to French-language health services, while strengthening the skills and engagement of stakeholders within the network.

Link : <https://equity-link.ca/en/>



Let us guide you in optimizing health services for your francophone and acadian communities

07 IN THE SPOTLIGHT

eQUITY Fundamentals

For health and social services managers

eQUITY Link
French language health services made simple and accessible

Self-assessment

Assess your current situation to gain a clear understanding of your strengths and identify key elements to incorporate into your work plan.

Introduction and key concepts

What do we mean by "Fundamentals"?
What does active offer really mean?
Before diving into each module, we clarify the basics to get you off to a good start.

MODULE UNDERSTAND

Learn more about the needs of Francophone and Acadian communities, as well as your organization's current capacity.

MODULE ÉVALUATE

Measure your progress and adjust your actions as needed. Take advantage of practical resources, tools and checklists to assess your progress and plan what's next.

Before you start the modules

You don't have to take this journey alone. Discover how to mobilize your team and effectively initiate the changes ahead.

MODULE PLAN

Who does what? Establish clear objectives and timeframes for implementing priorities. Define the roles and responsibilities of your team members working to improve your organization's offer of French-language health services.

MODULE IMPLEMENT

Take action with concrete strategies based on the five principles of equity. Access tools and expert advice to move your plan forward.

Need a hand?

The eQUITY Link team is here to support you, whether you're using the platform or working to implement French-language health and social services.

[Contact us in one click using our online form!](#)



Free program designed to support health and social service organizations, step by step, in providing French-language services across Canada.

Implementing partner



In collaboration with



Funded by



Health Canada

Santé Canada

08 IN THE SPOTLIGHT

18th Annual Symposium on Francophone Immigration

The annual Symposium on Francophone Immigration, organized by the Federation of Francophone and Acadian Communities of Canada, took place on the 24 April 2025 and brought together more than 240 participants from across the country, including researchers, community representatives and government officials. This year's discussions focused on ways to ensure the success and well-being of immigrants settling in Francophone minority communities, taking into account the diversity of their circumstances and needs.

Our distinguished colleague, Houda Zrelli (right), was invited as a speaker and panelist at the symposium. She presented the Accès ÉQUITÉ project as part of the workshop 'Improving the social determinants of health for newcomers through intersectoral collaboration'.



May the road rise to meet you...

A traditional Irish blessing wishing luck and fortune on one's journey is a fitting sentiment as we say farewell to our Executive Director, Julie Lantaigne.

The small team at the French Health Network of Central Southwestern Ontario (RFSSO) is deeply grateful for the wisdom and leadership Mrs. Lantaigne shared with us over the years. Her patience and dedication as a mentor were extraordinary. Under her leadership, the RFSSO strengthened its role as a cornerstone in advancing French-language health services, a lasting legacy that will continue to guide our work.

Julie Lantaigne has served as Executive Director of the French Health Network of Central Southwestern Ontario for the past 14 years and previously worked as Clinical Director at a Community Counseling Centre. With more than 25 years of experience in the mental health field, she has held a variety of leadership roles and has advised multiple ministries for over two decades, including Health, Long-Term Care, the Attorney General, Community and Social Services, Education, Francophone Affairs, and Ontario Health. She has also contributed to national initiatives, serving on committees such as the Organ Donation and Transplant Secretariat, which brings together partners across provinces and territories. Most recently, she has served as Chair of the French Language Health Services Advisory Council, advising Ontario's Ministers of Health and Long-Term Care.

"May the wind be always at your back." Julie, may the road always rise to meet you in the adventures ahead, and may the wind always be at your back. You have been a leader in every sense of the word, supporting the people, the goals, and the vision every step of the way.

As the French say, "Au petit bonheur la chance." We wish you every happiness as you begin this new chapter.