



## News Release

### The Health Care in French Networking Opportunity draws over 40 participants in Kingston

*For immediate release*

Kingston, March 4th 2015 – Over 40 healthcare and social services professionals took part in the second annual Health Care in French Networking Opportunity in South-Eastern Ontario. The event, hosted by the French Language Health Services Network of Eastern Ontario (or the *Réseau*), was held on March 4<sup>th</sup> at the Donald Gordon Conference Centre, in Kingston.

During this networking event, French-speaking and bilingual professionals were able to foster collaborative ties in order to facilitate information sharing regarding French-language services offered in the area. “Healthcare workers are essential when it comes to offering health services to the francophone population. They want to serve their francophone patients’ needs, and they require the means to do so. With events like these, we are able to provide them with capacity-building tools, such as data and contact information”, explains *Réseau* Communications and Community Participation Director, Natalie Béland.

Participants were also able to learn more about French-language professional development. For participant Joanne Myre, who is also administrator of the Faculty of Medicine’s Office of Francophone Affairs (University of Ottawa), the event is a great showcasing opportunity: “We offer many continued training programs, including a patient-physician communications workshop. It’s important for us to be here, as many of our students get internships or residencies in South-Eastern Ontario. It’s a way to improve access to French-language services.”

The *Réseau* is a Francophone organization that engages the health-care community and the Francophone community in all its diversity to improve the offer and the quality of French-language health services in Eastern and South-Eastern Ontario.

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**For more information:**

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