

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

COLLABORATION AT THE HEART OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF FRENCH LANGUAGE SERVICES

AURORA, ON, June 16, 2017 – Entité 4’s seventh annual general meeting (AGM) was held at the Barrie Community Health Centre (CHC) on June 13 with more than fifty representatives from the Francophone community and health system partners, and before the Honourable Marie-France Lalonde, Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs.

One of the highlights of the evening was a discussion panel on the importance of collaboration for the development of French language services, with participation from **Jill Tettmann**, Chief Executive Officer of North Simcoe Muskoka Local Health Integration Network (LHIN), **Sylvia Bernard**, interim Executive Director at La Clé, **Estelle Duchon**, Executive Director of Entité 4, **David Jeffery**, Executive Director of CHIGAMIK CHC and **Céleste Lalonde**, French Language System Navigator. A discussion took place around how the efforts of all partners concerned resulted in the hiring of a bilingual navigator who helps Francophones access appropriate services in French. Important topics included reinforcing the offer of French Language Services and engaging Francophone communities in planning the health system.



The Honourable Marie-France Lalonde, surrounded by Entité 4 Board members and Executive Director, and André Blais who chaired the AGM.

The Honourable Marie-France Lalonde concluded the evening by thanking French Language Health Planning Entities for their work and reiterated the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care’s commitment to improving access to health services for Francophones.

“Thanks to collaboration and commitment from all parties involved, our government will continue to make every effort to ensure access to high quality health services for all Ontarians.” - Marie-France Lalonde, Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs.



Representatives from the Central, Central East and North Simcoe Muskoka LHINs also addressed the audience to thank Entité 4 and its partners for their accomplishments in their respective territories. **Louis O'Brien**, Board Chair of the Central East LHIN, **Kirsten Parker**, Board Chair of the North Simcoe Muskoka LHIN, and **Lisa Gotell**, Bilingual Health Planner, mentioned the strong support provided by Entité 4 in planning French Language Health Services. The entire audience very much appreciated Mrs. **Jill Tettmann's** speech, which was given entirely in French.

Two new members were appointed to the Board of Directors: **Mylène Feytout-Eward** to represent North Simcoe Muskoka, and **Severin Egatsi** to represent Central East. **Jean Bouchard** took over the position of treasurer from **Dominique Janssens**.

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Entité 4's mandate is to make recommendations to the Central, Central East and North Simcoe Muskoka LHINs to improve access to quality health services in French for the francophone community in these areas.

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