

NEWS RELEASE

*For immediate release*

**A YEAR OF SUCCESS FOR FRENCH LANGUAGE HEALTH SERVICES**

AURORA, ON, June 20, 2016 – Entité 4’s sixth Annual General Meeting took place at Black Creek Community Health Centre (CHC) in North York in front of approximately 80 guests and attendees. This event was a perfect opportunity to thank the partners who contributed in developing access to French language health services during 2015-2016, and to talk about the imminent transformation of Ontario’s health system.

The gathering started with a message from the newly appointed Minister responsible for Francophone Affairs, read by Yves Lévesque, Chairman of Entité 4’s board of directors. *“Entité 4 promotes the needs of Francophones in central Ontario in order to plan services adapted to the realities of our communities. The renewal of Entité 4’s mandate demonstrates the importance of its work, its rigour and its professionalism. Thanks to the efforts and sustained commitment of its members, Ontario’s health service providers have valuable support to continue developing innovative models for French language service delivery.”* - The Honorable Marie-France Lalonde, Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs



Mrs. Sharon Lee Smith, Associate Deputy Minister  
– Policy and Transformation from the Ministry of  
Health and Long Term Care

At the beginning of the evening, Mrs. Sharon Lee Smith, Associate Deputy Minister – Policy and Transformation from the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, offered a preview of Bill 210 which puts patients first, and provided an overview of the main components of Ontario’s health system transformation, namely the LHINs increased responsibilities.

*« Entité 4 will follow the evolution (of the health system) closely to ensure that needs of Francophones are taken into consideration. »*  
- Yves Lévesque, Chairman of the Board – Entité 4.

Representatives from the Central, Central East and North Simcoe Muskoka LHINs offered messages to thank Entité 4 and its partners for their work, which resulted in benefits to Francophone communities within their respective territories.

Mrs. Gila Martow, Member of provincial parliament for Thornhill, reiterated the importance of having services in French as Ontario’s Francophone population is increasing.

In appreciation for the work done by our partners, Entité 4 presented five health service providers with recognition awards: Black Creek CHC, Taibu CHC, Chigamik CHC, Canadian Mental Health Association – Durham, and North Simcoe Muskoka Community Care Access Centre.

*« Our AGM is the perfect opportunity to celebrate our partners’ efforts and achievements. We thank them for their exceptional contribution to the development of French language health services. »* – Estelle Duchon, Executive Director – Entité 4.



Recognition Awards 2016 Recipients

Three new board members were elected: Jean Bouchard, Laura Lutoto et Narjiss Lazrak. Following the AGM, the new Board held an election for its directors: Yves Lévesque remains president, Dominique Janssens stays on as treasurer, Narjiss Lazrak is now vice-president, and Laura Lutoto becomes secretary of the Board.

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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.*

#### Quotes

*"As outlined in the IHSP 2016/19, the Central East LHIN supports the advancement of a health care system that is capable of delivering the highest-quality care at the local level to any patient, regardless of race, ethnicity, culture or language capacity," said Deborah Hammons, CEO, Central East LHIN. "We are pleased to see TAIBU Community Health Centre and Canadian Mental Health Association Durham receive recognition for their work in establishing accessible French language services for Francophone patients and providers in Central East LHIN communities. The Central East LHIN will continue to work with Entité 4 and health service providers to reduce French language barriers and support the diverse Francophone population to live healthier at home."*

*"The North Simcoe Muskoka LHIN is excited about the work our health service providers continue to do, including CHIGAMIK CHC and the North Simcoe Muskoka CCAC, to improve equitable access to linguistically and culturally adaptive health care for our francophone residents"- Robert Morton, Board Chair, North Simcoe Muskoka LHIN*

*"The Central LHIN appreciates Entité 4's commitment and leadership to the Francophone community," said Kim Baker, CEO, Central LHIN. "Our collaboration with Entité 4 is important in identifying the needs of Francophones and working with Health Service Providers to advance French Language Service planning and delivery. We also congratulate Black Creek Community Health Centre on receiving recognition for their work. We look forward to continuing to work together for better health care for our Francophone community."*

For more information, please visit [www.entite4.ca](http://www.entite4.ca) or contact Sophie Sakillarides by email at [s.sakillarides@entite4.ca](mailto:s.sakillarides@entite4.ca) or by phone at 905-726-8882, extension 806.