



News Release

For immediate release

LANGUAGE MATTERS IN LONG-TERM CARE SERVICES FOR BARRIE FRANCOPHONES

AURORA, ON, December 12, 2019 – Yesterday, during a focus group meeting, members of the Francophone community made it clear that language matters when it comes to choosing long-term care for themselves or a loved one.

“What we are hearing from the community is that Francophones shouldn’t have to face a choice between long-term care services in French and being close to their families,” says Estelle Duchon, Executive Director. “As we work to develop a strategy to provide French language long-term care services, the large Francophone population in Barrie makes it a good place to start. But we know that all Francophones should have access to long-term care in French that is close to home.”

Language of service and distance from family were among key considerations for families when considering long-term care options. The community also indicated support for a model care that would have a dedicated space for Francophones within a predominantly English-speaking long-term care home.

“Entité 4 would like to thank all those who took part in the Focus Group on Long-term Care in Barrie,” continues Ms. Duchon. “Feedback from the community is helping to guide our efforts in collaborating with service providers to build French language long-term care services. Focus groups help us clearly demonstrate the need for services in our conversations with service providers. We will also share the results of our engagement efforts with government agencies to help them plan better connected long-term care services for Francophones.”

As the Ontario government works to deliver on its commitment to end hallway health care by creating and redeveloping long-term care beds in communities across Ontario, Entité 4 is working to ensure the needs of Ontario Francophones are considered. Entité 4 is hosting a series of community focus groups as part of the *Language Matters in Long-Term Care* campaign, launched November 12.

The December 11 focus group was held at Barrie Community Health Centre and included an informative presentation by CHIGAMIK Community Health Centre on French Language Health Services available throughout the North Simcoe Muskoka region.

Entité 4 is mandated by the Ministry of Health to improve access to French Language Health Services. Established in 2010, Entité 4 facilitates community engagement and provides innovative advice on planning, organizing and integrating French Language Health Services. Entité 4 works with local, regional and provincial partners, throughout the Central, Central East and North Simcoe Muskoka regions, to build and sustain health care services for Ontario’s official language minority population.

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