

Improving Accessibility to Health Services In French for the Fransaskois Community

Volume 1 n° 2

June, 2004

Summary:

- Consulting on establishing a governance structure
- President's message
- Linking up with the RHAs
- Early childhood development
- Did You Know?
- WNV
- Seniors
- Report on language barriers

Consultation for governance

On May 11th 2004 the Comité de liaison et d'actions en santé (CLAS) met with the partners of the Network for Health services in French (RSFS) at the Institut Français, University of Regina. The main purpose for this consultation was to determine how we can incite full participation of each partner and identify common focal points.

The representatives of the government, the Regional Health Authorities, the primary health services providers, the training institutions and the

francophone community came to an understanding as to the governance model and the mandate of the Network. Other points were mentioned such as:

- regular meetings with the Regional Health Authorities will help promote the Network and begin the work of identifying common links between the Network and the existing health structures
- the liaison with key representatives will help forge a close collaboration and ex-



change of information on a regular basis.

The outcomes of this meeting have been taken into consideration by CLAS in order to establish the rules and regulations that will govern the RSFS.

A word from our President...



The Comité de liaison et d'actions en santé (CLAS) would like to welcome the new coordinator for the Réseau santé en français de la Saskatchewan (RSFS), Anne-Marie Chevalier, who started her work in May.

In the last three months we have progressed towards our goal of establishing a Network for Health services in French in Saskatchewan. A consulta-

tion for the establishment of the Network was held in Regina in May. With representatives of all the stakeholders present, we were able to define important points for the mandate and the governance of the RSFS.

Our project « Children, Families and Seniors » is still waiting for approval from the Société santé en français (SSF). We have reworked the project to clarify questions raised by the SSF. We are confident that this approval will be forthcoming very

soon.

Congratulations to the community of Bellevue on the official opening of the Foyer Jésus Marie. This senior's complex constructed by the community has 16 spaces available for francophone seniors in need of assistance.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy summer.

Jocelyne Lavergne
President of CLAS and
Elected representative ACF

Linking up with the RHA

In June the Directors of primary health for the Regional Health Authorities invited Mrs. Francine Proulx-Kenzle of (CLAS) and Mrs. Anne-Marie Chevalier (Coordinator RSFS) to make a presentation about the RSFS. They welcomed the opportunity to talk about the francosaskois community and the Réseau santé en français de la Saskatchewan.

This was the first step in the process of linking the Network with the health delivery system in Saskatchewan.

Did You Know???

Almost 9 million Canadians - about 30% of Canada's population - live in rural and remote areas of the country which occupies 9.5 million square kilometres, or around 95% of Canada's territory. In rural Canada, as in urban Canada, good health is a major resource for social, economic, community and personal development.

www.hc-sc.gc.ca

As of April 7, 2004, it became illegal to sell baby walkers in Canada -- either new or used. Additionally, anyone with a baby walker is advised to destroy it before discarding it so that it cannot be reused.

For more information on the safety of second-hand consumer products, please visit our web site at: www.healthcanada.ca/garagesales or contact the nearest Health Canada Product Safety Regional Office.

Saskatoon (306) 975-4502

Early childhood development

The provincial francophone parents association (APF) held a consultation with its partners in education and health on May 28, 2004. The goal of the meeting was to explore, inform and engage dialogue about early childhood development for the future of the francophone community. The aim was to share information on national and provincial visions and strategies. The national consortium of francophone parents (CNPF) presented the national vision

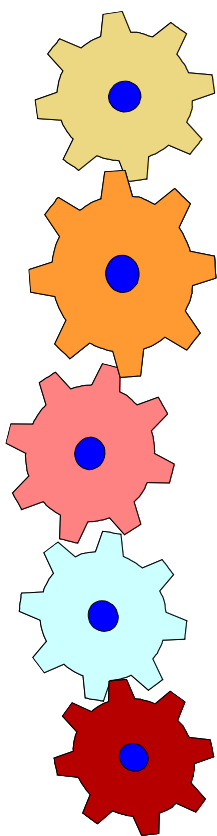
pertaining to early childhood development.



For more information please consult the APF website.

www.parentsfransaskois.ca

*Early
childhood
development
Regina Inn
May 28, 2004*



What are the symptoms of West Nile virus infection?

Many people infected with West Nile virus (WNV) have no symptoms and do not get sick or have only mild symptoms. When infection does cause illness, symptoms will usually appear within two to 15 days. The extent and severity of symptoms vary widely from person to person. In mild cases, there may be flu-like symptoms, including fever, headache and body aches. Some people may also develop a mild rash, or swollen lymph glands.



Senior's Month June 2004

Many parts of Canada will celebrate Seniors' Month in June to highlight the ongoing contributions and positive lifestyle of Canada's seniors.

Who is a "senior"?

- The age of a person is a relative term. There are old 50

Who is at risk?

Anybody can have serious health effects with WNV infection; however, people with weaker immune systems are considered to be at greater risk for serious health effects.

- Older people.
- People with chronic diseases, such as cancer, diabetes, alcoholism, or

heart disease.

- People that require medical treatment that may weaken the immune system, such as chemotherapy.

Although individuals with weaker immune systems are at greater risk, WNV can cause severe complications for people

of any age and any health status. This is why it is so important to reduce the risk of getting bitten by mosquitoes.

Anyone exposed to mosquitoes in an area where WN virus has been detected is at some degree of risk for infection.

From the office of the francophone Provincial Seniors' Federation

The annual general meeting of the Fédération des aînés francosaskois was held at the Park Town hotel may 14 and 15, 2004. During the weekend a group of health professionals from Quebec and Saskatchewan offered workshops on health and prevention aimed at people over 50, as part of a national tour. The workshops

included dietetics, diagnostic testing sound technology, depression, exercise and wellness along with music and cultural arts. It was a very successful weekend with the participation of 70 seniors from the federation's member clubs.

As of April 30 2004, Kevin Morrison is the new

director of the federation. Fransaskois born, Kevin brings a wealth of experience and energy to the position.. He is planning to meet with all the member clubs during the year.

For more information, you can contact us at (306) 653-7442 or by email at aines@sasktel.net

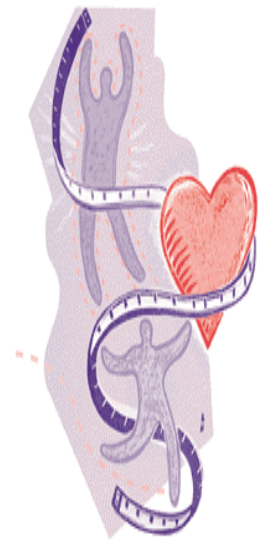
year-olds and young 70 year-olds.

- Today, 1 in 10 Canadians is an older adult. By 2021, this number will more than double.
- In 1995, the number of Canadians over 80 was 820,000. By 2041, that number is expected to almost quadruple to 3.1

million!

Stay active at any age!

One of the most important examples of healthy living for older adults is physical activity. Regular physical activity can reduce and even prevent a number of functional declines associated with aging.



**Réseau santé en français
de la Saskatchewan**

3850 Hillsdale Street room 220
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4S 7J5

Telephone : 306-569-1912
Fax : 306-781-7916
E-mail : sante.acf@sasktel.net

**www.fransaskois.
sk.ca**

*Pour une meilleure accessibilité à
des services de santé en français*

OUR VISION...

“Increased accessibility of primary health services in French in Saskatchewan by more community empowerment, better use of existing resources, creation of partnerships and bridges with majority institutions, and the establishment of solutions that are realistic but structured and adapted to the specifics of the Fransaskois community. In short, an environment in which more Francophones will ask for and receive services in French, and where more institutions and professionals will offer or be aware of health services in French.”

Language and access to health care

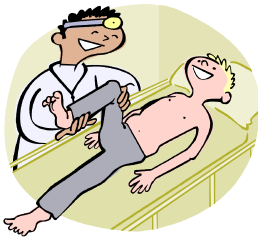
Source: Language barriers in access to health care

One of the conclusions of this report says that: «There is compelling evidence that language barriers have an adverse effect on access to health services. Patients face significant barriers to health promotion/prevention programs. There is also evidence that they face signi-

ficant barriers to first contact for care in a number of settings.. » It also states that; « However, both initial access to, and quality of care provided for, psychosocial issues appears to be impaired by the presence of language barriers. In many cases the rights to confidentiality and informed consent are not protected for patients who do not speak an official language, and they do not receive the same standards of ethical care as

other patients.» Besides suggesting that more research be done the author puts forward the recommendation to: « Develop strategies to assist communities and institutions to develop models of service delivery appropriate for the variety of settings where interpretation is needed.

Report prepared for Health Canada by Sarah Bowen University of Manitoba



Delivering Quality care

✂

Yes, I would like to receive future copies of this newsletter

Yes, I would like to add my name to the list of Health Care professionals able to offer a service in french

Name: _____ Profession : _____

Adresse : _____

Phone: _____ Fax : _____ E-mail : _____