



RSA

RÉSEAU SANTÉ ALBERTA

2021-2022
ANNUAL REPORT



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

New Projects

A number of reasons make this past year a memorable one for the Alberta Francophone Health Network (RSA): the pandemic, of course, but just as importantly if not more so, the start of new projects in addition to our considerable workload. The RSA's strategic support in an Early Childhood initiative funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) stands out as does our groundwork in preparation for the launch of the Tel-Aide mental health helpline. We are also participating in three research projects, one with Campus Saint-Jean delving into the health issues of Francophone immigrants living in Alberta, Saskatchewan, the Yukon, the Northwest Territories, Nunavut as well as Newfoundland and Labrador. Another research initiative, which is part of a project leading to the development of a primer on the healthy brain, is being led by the ResoSanté in British Columbia and also involves the participation of Saskatchewan and the Yukon. A third study undertaken in collaboration with Manitoba and Saskatchewan is exploring the effects of COVID-19 on families living in

minority Francophone communities.



Significant Strides

A key meeting with the Health Minister in March 2021 has led to the creation of a ministerial task force. In this way, we continue to work collaboratively to implement the Ministry's action plan with respect to the Alberta Government's French Policy aimed at **improving access to French language health services.**

More recently, we have seen some progress thanks to the appointment of Assistant Deputy Minister Andy Ridge as the lead on the Ministry's action plan. In fact, we are seeing a great deal more goodwill and open-mindedness on the part of the government in working

collaboratively with the RSA and the Francophone community. As the lead provincial advocacy organization, the ACFA has been of tremendous assistance to us, raising awareness among elected officials. Strategic meetings with two members of the Alberta Legislative Assembly in their role as the official opposition and critics of health as well as mental health are examples of the political inroads made last year.

Key Highlights

Our 2021-2022 year-end review lists many other achievements that we proudly share with you in this Annual Report. As you read on, you will see that the RSA is making significant strides. Despite an unfavorable legal and political framework regarding Canada's Francophonie, especially in Western Canada, we are persevering in our efforts to raise awareness and mobilize political and public opinion. Our action within the health care system, with health

professionals, educational institutions, and the Francophone community itself is focused on achieving one ultimate goal: **increased access to French-language health care services in Alberta.** This is why we have created the RSA Endowment Fund which now stands at \$15,000. The income generated by this fund will be used to support various French-language health promotion initiatives.

In summary, the 2021-2022 year-end review clearly reflects our progress and advancement in improving access to French-language health care.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Development of a three-year strategic plan for the 2022-2025 period, the result of a three-month long team effort involving members of our Board of Directors and management team, as well as community stakeholders and 65 community survey respondents.



1 New Vision

A health system in which Francophones are represented and served in French.

1 Renewed Mission

As the lead organization, the RSA is involved in decisions affecting the health and personal wellness of Albertans in all their diversity. We work to strengthen ties with health stakeholders, bringing the health care system and the community closer together.

3 Strategic Directions

- 1 Provide tools to our partners.
- 2 Promote existing French-languages services.
- 3 Raise awareness among health care stakeholders.

37 Priority Actions

to be undertaken under each strategic direction within the framework of our new vision and the mission we are committed to carry out on a daily basis.



STRATEGIC NETWORKING

Impact: RSA's growing visibility and influence with health care policy and decision-makers, health professionals, educational institutions and the community thanks to the development and dissemination of resources that inform stakeholders and steer efforts toward the provision of French-language health care.



CONTRIBUTIONS



2 Key Meetings

With the ministerial task force working to implement the Ministry's action plan with respect to the Alberta Government's French Policy.



Public Messages

Published in our newsletter, on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.



2 Editions of the Marché Solidaire

A pop-up grocery store that provided basic food provisions to more than 175 needy families thanks to La Cité des Rocheuses, with the support of the Centre d'appui familial, the Conseil scolaire FrancoSud school board, the Paroisse Sainte-Famille Parish and the Alberta Francophone Health Network.



ACHIEVEMENTS

New Web Site

Launched in 2021, rsa-ab.ca is Alberta's ultimate French-language resource in the area of health care for a growing number of Internet users. Impact: Increased number of web site visits as well as public and professional inquiries of all kinds.




Fact Sheet

Information tool that promotes the active demand for French-language services used as a standalone, or in combination with the fact sheet on the active offer of services.


Training Program

Tools and information specially tailored to the needs of RSA volunteers to help them promote the demand for and the active offer of French-language services in their respective community.


750 Facebook Fans

 A 45% increase in the last year alone.


589 Twitter Followers

 Approximately 35% more sign-ups in 2021-2022.

119 Instagram Subscribers

 A 65% increase in subscriptions in the last year.

1 YouTube Channel

 Informative workshops and activities for public viewing.



EARLY CHILDHOOD HEALTH DEVELOPMENT

Support provided to project promoters engaged in activities, services and training involving childhood educators and volunteers.



2 Training Sessions

With the Centre collégial de l'Alberta and 20 participants in total.



3 Workshops

At issue: Knowledge mobilization for the benefit of approximately 20 participants.



9 Partners

In addition to the promise of new partnership opportunities at the inter-provincial and territorial levels.



Numerous Work Sessions

Purposes: Advocacy, brainstorming, management, and assessment of activities and outcomes, in addition to providing health input and insights in the review process of the Early Childhood Community Services Plan for 2019-2022.

SENIOR CARE

Development and dissemination of information tools on the need to adopt national health care standards that are culturally responsive to the health needs of Francophones and to ensure that Alberta's modernization of the provincial continuing care system leads to more culturally responsive health care.



Fact Sheet 1

Focus: The need to adopt a new national standard for long-term care that is truly responsive to the needs of Francophone seniors.

Informed Health Partners

Focus: Ensuring they have the necessary knowledge and expertise to fully engage in informed decision-making leading to improved health outcomes in the Francophone population.

Fact Sheet 2

Focus: Stepping up efforts to ensure Alberta's modernized continuing care model meets the health needs of the Francophone population and achieves real systemic change for the benefit of all Albertans.

1 Montessori Training Session

Designed for the benefit of 8 Francophone participants thanks to a joint collaborative effort with Alberta's Fédération des aînés franco-albertains.

HEALTH CAREERS

Development of workshops designed to promote health careers among high school students in French-language schools and immersion programs across Alberta.

6 Lesson Plans for Training Workshops

In addition to a teacher's guide.

22 Pedagogical Worksheets

Featuring awareness-raising activities.

PROJECT FRANCO-SANTÉ

Outreach initiative with Francophone and/or French-speaking university students pursuing studies in the health sector and willing to engage in the active offer of French-language health services.



30 Students

The focus of RSA outreach efforts as future health care professionals.



2 Interns

Pursuing studies in nursing sciences recruited to organize peer awareness-raising activities.



3 Bursaries

Awarded to students committed to pursuing French-language studies in the health sector.



1 Web Section

Specially tailored to the health information needs of students.



6 Training Activities

Involving human simulations in clinical and health service delivery settings.

FRANCOPHONE IMMIGRATION AND HEALTH

Creation and/or strengthening of ties between the health and immigration (settlement) sectors through the sharing of RSA's expertise in activities involving the Réseau en immigration francophone de l'Alberta (RIFA).

PARTICIPATION

8

Major Events

Including the roundtable meeting of RIFA's provincial member groups.

2

Special Mentions

Included in the information kit disseminated to newcomers (Calgary).

1

Newspaper Article

Published in the weekly Le Franco as part of Francophone Immigration Week.

1

Breakthrough

Involving the integration of major health issues in RIFA's strategic plan.

ORGANIZATION

3 Virtual Activities with 40 participants

Featuring a discussion panel on health and language, a dialog on women's and men's health as well as a culinary presentation.

Networking Activity

Youth outreach initiative aimed at the 13 to 25 age market featuring a fun quiz on mental health needs.



MESSAGES

Numerous postings sharing info and promoting tools

On Facebook, Twitter, via the web site and by email.



FRANCOPHONE IMMIGRATION AND HEALTH

PART 2

Gathering insight and input on the health needs of Francophone immigrants through research on their health status, especially those living in Western Canada and in remote areas.

UNDERWAY



Multiprovincial / Territorial Study

Led by Principal Researcher Boniface Bahi, Assist Prof, Campus Saint-Jean, and designed to collect and analyze data on the mental health status of that population group, including chronic diseases and health determinants.



Initial Progress Report

Submitted to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada and outlining the key steps leading to the study's successful completion in 2022-2023.

RESEARCH PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Francophone Immigrant Health

The RSA is playing a lead role in the study on the health status of Francophone immigrants living in Alberta, the Western region and remote areas. We are gathering data on a range of issues including mental health (trauma, relational issues, substance abuse, suicide) and chronic diseases.

Research data will enable health care policy and decision-makers and stakeholders to develop

more culturally responsive care. Participating partners include our counterparts in Saskatchewan, the Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Newfoundland and Labrador, as well as Campus Saint-Jean.

This research project is made possible thanks to funding from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada provided through the Société Santé en français.

RESEARCH TEAM

PRINCIPAL RESEARCHER

Boniface Bahi, Ph. D. (Campus Saint-Jean, University of Alberta)

CO-RESEARCHERS

Andrea MacLeod, Ph. D. (University of Alberta), and Nathalie Piquemal, Ph. D. (University of Manitoba)

COLLABORATORS

Drs Denis Vincent, Lyne Gaudet, Michelle Dion and Mireille Kamin

Impact of Pandemic on Francophone Families Living in the Canadian Prairies

We are actively involved in another research project, this one led by three researchers from the University of Saskatchewan, the Université de Saint-Boniface and the University of Alberta with funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

This research will serve to document the needs of Francophone families in the Canadian Prairies

and find ways of filling the gaps in the provision of French-language services.

Research recommendations will help to rally public opinion and provide guidance to the various levels of government.

RESEARCH TEAM

PRINCIPAL RESEARCHERS

Anne Leis, Ph. D. (University of Saskatchewan)

Danielle De Moissac, Ph. D. (University of Saint-Boniface)

Sedami Gnidehou, Ph. D. (Campus Saint-Jean, University of Alberta)

Paul Denis, Executive Director (Réseau santé Alberta)

CO-RESEARCHER

Kristan A. Marchak, Ph. D. (Campus Saint-Jean, University of Alberta)



Health for All

We are partnering in this community study led by the FrancoQueer West Committee to learn more about access to health services by Alberta's French-speaking 2SLGBTQIA+ community. Collecting data and input will help us better understand its diverse needs and formulate recommendations to guide decision-making by health care service providers.

This study is funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Institute of Gender and Health.



A Primer on Brain Health

We are proud to take part in this research initiative led by British Columbia's ResoSanté, which is part of Canada's first National Dementia Strategy. The key objective is to gain knowledge to better understand issues related to dementia and its impact on the Francophone communities of British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Alberta and the Yukon.

The project is funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada.

OUR HEALTH CARE VISION

A health system in which Francophones are represented and served in French.

In nearly 20 years, we have made strides towards achieving this vision with the support of volunteers, in partnership with our community, health care professionals, the health care system and the government of Alberta. The RSA plays a leading role, informing, influencing, and mobilizing stakeholders to work together in improving access to French-language health care across Alberta, where it matters most.

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