

NEWS

FRENCH LANGUAGE HEALTH SERVICES AND YOU

May 1, 2009

Effective today, Kingston is a designated area under the *French Language Services Act (1986)*. The Act guarantees an individual's right to receive services, including publicly-funded health care services, in either French or English from Ontario government ministries and agencies in 25 designated areas.

Many direct services provided by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care are through providers such as hospitals, long-term care homes, mental health and addictions and community support services. As managers of the local health system, LHINs are responsible for identifying providers that may be designated under the FLS. Identified service providers are then required to plan and report on the provision of services in French.

QUOTES

"I am pleased to see Kingston's designation is finally coming to fruition. I understand the importance of improving the quality of communication between people who require care and those who provide them. I am also pleased with the number of health organizations that will be designated," says Georgina Thompson, chair of the Board of Directors of the South East LHIN. "I look forward to ensuring our francophone population is able to access quality health services in French language."

"It is important to remember that not every identified health service provider will have the capacity to provide complete services in French as of today," says Paul Huras, Chief Executive Officer, South East LHIN. "The LHIN is working closely with identified organizations to identify their current French language capacity levels as well as develop a plan towards increased access and capacity for the provision of services in French."

QUICK FACTS

- The *Local Health System Integration Act, 2006* received Royal Assent March 28, 2006. This legislation is an effort to establish an integrated health system to improve the health OF Ontarians through better access to health services, coordinated health care and effective and efficient management of the health system at the local level by LHINs.
- The South East LHIN is responsible for the following health care sectors: hospitals, mental health and addiction services, long-term care facilities, community support services, community health centres and the Community Care Access Centre (CCAC).
- Once an identified health service provider can demonstrate it can provide services in French on a permanent basis, it can apply for official designation

- under the FLS Act. Currently, none of the health service providers in the Kingston area have achieved this designation.
- In order to ensure a complete range of health care services in the South East, the following providers have been identified:
 - Kingston General Hospital
 - Hotel Dieu Hospital
 - Providence Care (including Providence Manor)
 - Frontenac Community Mental Health Services
 - Options for Change
 - Salvation Army Harbour Light
 - South East Community Care Access Centre
 - Victorian Order of Nurses
 - Seniors Association Kingston
 - Hospice Kingston
 - Mental Health Support Network South Eastern Ontario
 - Canadian National Institute for the Blind
 - The Canadian Hearing Society – Kingston Region
 - Alzheimer Society of Kingston
 - Sexual Assault Centre Kingston

LEARN MORE

For more information about the South East LHIN, visit www.southeastlin.on.ca

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