



FOR RELEASE
January 24, 2014

Yukon government launches bilingual health passport

WHITEHORSE—A new tool was released today by the Government of Yukon that will help francophone patients and anglophone health care providers talk to each other.

"This booklet provides translations of the most common words and expressions used in a medical context," Health and Social Services Minister Doug Graham said. "It is designed to facilitate better communication between francophone patients and anglophone health care providers."

In 2012, Yukon's Francophone Health Network (Partenariat communauté en santé) invited the Health and Social Services department to send a representative to a conference organized by the Société santé en français. There, the Réseau santé en français de Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador presented their health passport and subsequently gave Health and Social Services permission to adapt their booklet to Yukon's needs.

The booklet was originally designed to serve the francophone population of Newfoundland and Labrador. Health and Social Services expanded the size of the booklet and reversed the translations, so that anglophone physicians could also use it to communicate better with their francophone patients.

"The health passport is a very useful resource that will facilitate communication between health professionals and Yukon francophones," Sandra St-Laurent, Director of the Francophone Health Network said. "Our network thanks the department for its commitment, as this health passport is a concrete tool that will contribute to the active offer of health services in French."

The launch of the passport complements the upcoming launch of French language pilot projects that aim to increase direct health services in French.

The booklet is being distributed to all physician offices, health care centres and hospitals as well as to the Francophone Health Network. It is available by calling 867-667-3010 or 1-800-661-0408 extension 3010, and is also accessible online at www.hss.gov.yk.ca.

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Contact:

Elaine Schiman
Cabinet Communications
867-633-7961
elaine.schiman@gov.yk.ca

Marcelle Dubé
Communications, Health and Social Services
867-667-3010
marcelle.dube@gov.yk.ca