

Franco-santé equips students to provide health services to Francophone and Acadian minority communities



Franco-santé is a project targeting Francophone and Francophile students attending English language institutions that offer postsecondary health programs.

In view of Franco-Doc's success with medical students, Health Canada has decided to fund **Franco-santé** to reach out to students in a variety of health training programs. **Franco-santé** is led by the Société Santé en français and the French Language Health Networks in nine provinces and three territories and involves national partners like the Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada.



Franco-DOC

RESULTS¹:

- 100% of English language faculties of medicine in the country are participants of and support the project
- 723 Francophone students identified in only three years
- 100% of participating students recommend the project to other students
- 100% of participating students said they wanted to work with these communities after their placement
- 85% felt confident providing services in French after the project versus 31% before
- 77% felt more connected with Francophone communities after the project

In response to the glaring disparities in access to health services for Francophone and Acadian minority communities, the Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada (AFMC), the Consortium national de formation en santé (CNFS), Médecins francophones du Canada (MFC), and the Société Santé en français (SSF) established the national Franco-Doc project.

OBJECTIVES: To identify and mobilize Francophone and Francophile students in Canada's English language faculties of medicine, make them aware of the importance of French language health services and, through experiential activities in the community, equip them to provide safe and effective health services during placements and on the job.

To read more:

<https://afmc.ca/en/priorities/franco-doc>

<https://socialinnovationsjournal.org/editions/issue-55-1/75-disruptive-innovations/2988-canadian-medical-schools-addressing-francophone-minority-needs>

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Société Santé en français



MÉDECINS FRANCOPHONES DU CANADA

Positive impacts expected from Franco-santé:

Give your students access to the social and learning activities offered by your French Language Health Network partner.

Equip your students to serve Francophone and Acadian communities living in a minority setting.

Enhance your social impact within Francophone minority communities and your visibility with your local and regional partners.

Join a nation-wide project linked to 14 faculties of medicine that are already partners.

Franco-santé was set up to help Francophone and Francophile health professionals provide health services to Francophone minority communities in Canada.

Sarah Bowen, Ph.D. (2015, 2001) has reported that “language barriers have a negative impact on access and equity within health services and health care as well as on satisfaction and lived experience”².

Franco-santé, like Franco-Doc, will make it possible to:

Identify Francophone and Francophile students attending English language institutions that offer postsecondary health programs.

Equip them so they can provide service in French to Francophone and Acadian minority communities once they begin practising their professions.



Franco-santé offers a variety of student-friendly learning activities over the course of their formal training.



Introduction to the concept of **active offer** of French language services

Social and learning – activities in French (familiarization with French medical terminology, social evenings, cooking classes, etc.)



Simulations of clinical situations in French (language simulation of experiences with French-speaking patients, such as their welcome, the exchange with them, etc.)



TESTIMONIES OF STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE FRANCO-DOC PROJECT

The Franco-Doc Project represents the first time that many of the partners involved have had a concrete project that brings them all together with a common vision and purpose.

“We’re all trying to go towards the same goal, which is...providing access to healthcare services in French”
– FRANCO-DOC STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER

Of students participating in Franco-Doc clinical placements, only **31%** felt confident delivering services in French before the placements, whereas **85%** felt confident afterwards.

“Just thinking about how it has impacted me –it has really opened new opportunities for advocacy. I really enjoy it and it will impact my career. I really hope that it will do the same for other students. The students that have gone through the program are definitely more likely to deliver services in French once they do practice.”
– UNDERGRADUATE LEARNER

“New cadre of physicians will emerge that not only have the skills, but also a willingness to deliver health services in French.”

For more information, contact your French Language Health Network partner or visit the Société Santé en français website at www.santefrancais.ca/en/franco-sante



² http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2012/sc-hc/H39-578-2001-eng.pdf