Creation of the CIUSSS de l'Estrie - CHUS
Estrie's Population Is Privileged

Sherbrooke, Monday, February 9, 2015 - The approximately 500,000 residents of Estrie have good reason to be reassured by the creation of the Centre intégré universitaire de santé et de services sociaux de l'Estrie - Centre hospitalier universitaire de Sherbrooke (CIUSSS de l'Estrie - CHUS). The new organization will amalgamate a university geriatrics institute, a university hospital centre, an affiliated rehabilitation centre, as well as three research centres - a huge benefit for all users, staff and physicians. Nearly 100% of all health care, health and social services, from prevention to superspecialized services, will be provided locally by the new organization.

It was therefore with enthusiasm and with pride in maintaining, even improving, public services that the chairs of the boards of directors and the executive directors of the 14 merged organizations and the Agence de la santé et des services sociaux de l'Estrie welcomed the creation of the CIUSSS de l'Estrie - CHUS during a press conference held this afternoon. Following this merger, the region will enhance its efforts to make care and services even more accessible.

The president and executive director, along with the chair of the board of directors of the Agence de la santé et des services sociaux de l'Estrie, respectively Ms. Johanne Turgeon and Mr. Denis Paré, presented the territory served by the CIUSSS de l'Estrie - CHUS, which extends from Lac-Mégantic to Ange-Gardien. "We are convinced that this new organization will enable the public to benefit fully from the pooling of all of this expertise and the high level of competency of our teams," praised Mr. Denis Paré.

Thanks to the remapping of the territory served by the CIUSSS de l'Estrie - CHUS, which now includes the CSSS de la Pommeraie and the CSSS de la Haute-Yamaska, the region is keeping its specialized third and fourth-line services, which include cardiology, oncology, neonatology, and brain surgery. "The CIUSSS de l'Estrie - CHUS will be a model. It will be among the most complete and independent organizations, providing approximately 100% of care and services which one could need throughout one's life without requiring a transfer to Montreal or Quebec City," explained Mr. Jacques Fortier, the Chair of the Board of Directors of the CHUS.

"By pooling the expertise of the network's professionals and the knowledge of the needs of the population of our territory, the current managers are confident that care and services will be improved and adapted to the needs of each community," noted Ms. Diane Gingras, the Chair of the Board of Directors of the CSSS-IUGS. "It is important for our clients to have access to the same quality of care and to standardized services regardless of whether they live in Asbestos, Sherbrooke, Windsor, Lac Mégantic, Saint-Paul-d'Abbottsford or Sutton."

In fact it was within this context that the new name was chosen. The name of the CHUS remains even though it is a single organization. This will enable it to pursue the development of practices.

Meeting Specific Local Needs while Benefiting from Combining Expertise

Ms. Marie Caron, the Executive Director of Centre jeunesse de l'Estrie, and Ms. Carole Côté, chair of the Board of the Centre de réadaptation en dépendance de l'Estrie, were also pleased for their
respective client groups. "There are tremendous benefits in terms of service continuity in having both frontine and second-line rehabilitation services henceforth being provided by the same organization. Those who need a variety of rehabilitation services will no longer need to visit different organizations to receive the overall services which they require," added Ms. Marie Caron and Ms. Carole Côté.

The executive director of the CSSS du Granit, Mr. Pierre Latulippe, along with the presidents of the CSSS de la Haute-Yamaska and the CSSS de La Pommeraie, Mr. Jean-Marc Savoie and Mr. Michel Lafrance, insisted on reassuring the populations of their respective territories, located at the boundaries of the area served by the CIUSSS de l'Estrie - CHUS, that local services would be maintained and even developed further. Our objective is to continue to respond to the specific needs of each population within the territory of the new organization," Mr. Pierre Latulippe noted reassuringly.

Both presidents, who attended the press conference, expressed great confidence in the success of the partnership among the actors which will compose the CIUSSS de l'Estrie - CHUS. "We are extremely pleased to work together to ensure that quality services are provided locally," declared Mr. Jean-Marc Savoie of the CSSS de la Haute-Yamaska. "It was also the wish of our English-speaking community to be in Estrie. The new organization will continue to serve the public in the same manner, if not better," added Mr. Michel Lafrance of the CSSS de La Pommeraie.

"Joint action has always been one of the greatest strengths in Estrie. We have already regionalized large-scale projects with our partners. Each and every one of us wants the public to receive the best possible care and services that are adapted to its needs as well as to do everything within our power to support our staff in the upcoming transition. That is the trajectory of our commitment," concluded Ms. Johanne Turgeon.

All heads and administrators attending the press conference shared the same sense of urgency in undertaking the task of implementing the CIUSSS de l'Estrie - CHUS.

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For further information or to request an interview : 819 819 829-3400, poste 42548 communications.agence05@ssss.gouv.qc.ca