2014 Progress Report
French-language services provided by the Government of Nova Scotia
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This report is not an exhaustive list of the progress of designated public institutions. Refer to individual institutions’ 2014–2015 French-language services plans for a more complete look at their achievements in French-language services for the 2013–2014 fiscal year.
As we approach the 10th anniversary of the French-language Services Act in Nova Scotia, we should take a moment to reflect on the tremendous progress that has been made in French-language services. The past decade has seen the development of a whole host of programs and structures to support and advance French-language services in departments, offices, and agencies – from the Bonjour! visual identification program and translation services offered by Acadian Affairs to an electronic directory of French-speaking staff at the Department of Community Services and updated systems at Service Nova Scotia to allow French accents and characters to be entered when using its online services.

Since 2005, more than 12.5 million words have been translated by Acadian Affairs for government institutions, more than 15,000 pieces of Bonjour! program materials have been distributed, and more than 5,000 seats of French language training have been filled by provincial public servants. Thanks in part to these programs, the range and quantity of services and resources offered in French by departments, offices, and agencies continues to grow each year, building on what is already available.

This eighth annual progress report highlights key performance indicators for French-language services for the 2013–2014 fiscal year. These include the outputs of individual departments and institutions as well as figures for government as a whole. We also take you behind the scenes for a more in-depth look at French-language programs and the organizations working to serve the Acadian and francophone community. Delve deeper into French-language programs and support for mental health on page 16 and turn to page 19 to learn more about partnerships with the Acadian and francophone community to benefit children and young people.

The 2013–2014 fiscal year also marks the first year of the new Nova Scotia Strategic Plan for French-language Services for 2013 to 2018 – the Government of Nova Scotia’s strategy for the development, delivery, and expansion of French-language services. The new plan places a greater emphasis on the role of senior leadership in championing French-language services in their institutions and on engaging the Acadian and francophone community to inform French-language service development.

The new strategic plan is supported in part through matching funding provided by the Department of Canadian Heritage via the Canada – Nova Scotia Agreement on French-language Services. We are very grateful for the Government of Canada’s support, which helps make the continued development of French-language services possible.

Honourable Michel P. Samson
Minister of Acadian Affairs
How we approach our work
French-language services at the Government of Nova Scotia

Acadian Affairs
Providing support for French-language services
Acadian Affairs oversees the implementation of the French-language Services Act and offers services and programs to provincial government institutions to help them provide services in French. These include translation, French language training, funding for projects, policy advice, and tools such as the Bonjour! visual identification program.

Nova Scotia Strategic Plan for French-language Services
This government-wide plan for French-language services guides the development, delivery, and expansion of government services in French. The implementation of the plan is funded in part by the Canada – Nova Scotia Agreement on French-language Services.

Designated public institutions
The French-language Services Regulations specify the government institutions to which the French-language Services Act applies and from which the Acadian and francophone community can expect to receive services in French. These designated public institutions include all departments, most offices, and many agencies. A complete list of institutions is available on the Acadian Affairs website.

French-language Services Coordinating Committee
This interdepartmental committee is made up of French-language services coordinators from departments and offices and the executive director of Acadian Affairs. It advises the Minister of Acadian Affairs on the implementation of the French-language Services Act, develops guidelines and procedures, and serves as a forum for sharing best practices.

French-language Services Coordinators
Working in designated public institutions, French-language services coordinators oversee a range of activities relating to French-language services. These typically include the preparation of an annual French-language Services Plan, and facilitating the development of policies, programs, and initiatives relating to French-language services.
Key performance indicators for French-language services

Government departments, offices, and agencies improved the services they offer in French in various ways during the 2013–2014 fiscal year. This section of the Progress Report outlines many of these improvements as well as key performance indicators for government as a whole. Progress is structured around the objectives of the Nova Scotia Strategic Plan for French-language Services for 2013–2018.

Objective 1: Leadership and policy direction

Champion and support the planning, administration, and policy development frameworks for the implementation of the French-language Services Act and its regulations.

The Coordinating Committee takes a closer look at the French language training program

A working group of the French-language Services Coordinating Committee embarked on a comprehensive evaluation of the French language training program in 2013–2014. The project seeks to improve the delivery of the program and assess its effectiveness in enhancing government’s ability to provide services in French. Three staff surveys were developed and conducted to evaluate the ways in which the program is administered and its impact. Employees who participated in the training, managers, and French-language services coordinators were surveyed as part of the project. The data from the 578 responses were collected and an initial analysis completed. A final report with recommendations will be produced in 2014–2015.

Projects carried out by the Coordinating Committee in 2013–2014

- Finalized the Nova Scotia Strategic Plan for French-language Services 2013–2018
- Developed a framework for reviewing the Human Resources Guidelines to support the implementation of the French-language Services Act
- Began an evaluation of the French language training program
- Reviewed the results of a policy analysis conducted by the Fédération acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse
- Established a subcommittee to examine the question of active offer of services in French and develop an action plan to promote it and increase its use
Two teams and Web Program Coordinator honoured for French-language service excellence

Public servants make French-language services a reality and when an entire team gets behind an initiative, the results often go above and beyond. Two such teams were recognized at the 2014 Bonjour! Awards for Excellence in French-language Services. The Nova Scotia Birth Registration Kiosk development team at Service Nova Scotia received the Bonjour! Award for Excellence in Program Development. The award acknowledged its work in developing fully bilingual birth registration kiosks that allow parents to complete the birth registration process and apply for a number of relevant government programs and services electronically before they leave the hospital.

The second award, for Excellence in Service Delivery to the Public, went to the Nova Scotia Archives team, part of the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage. The Archives team’s award recognized the quality of the services it provides in French onsite, by email and telephone, and online via its popular genealogical and archival websites.

The third Bonjour! Award went to Bernardine Wood, a former Web Program Coordinator at the Department of Justice, for Excellence in Leadership. Ms. Wood played a crucial role coordinating the publication of French-language content for a range of programs on the department’s website, including the Restorative Justice and Mental Health Court programs.

Objective 2: Availability and accessibility of French-language services

Increase the prevalence and awareness of French-language services through active offer, communications, printed and electronic materials, and by increasing the capacity of the public service to offer services in French.

Government news delivered in French

In 2013–2014, 110 news releases were issued in French to keep the Acadians and francophones informed about a range of issues and government programs and services, including:

- precautions to take for winter storms and blizzards
- new rules for cell phone contracts
- how to participate in the school review consultations
- bilingual exhibits opening in the province’s museums
- the campaign to name the new February holiday
- how to apply for the Heating Assistance Rebate Program
- tools to report cases of cyberbullying and to help victims get the help they need
The number of news releases issued by government can vary considerably from year to year due to factors such as special events, elections, and issues affecting public health and safety.

Tweet all about it
The provincial government’s French-language Twitter account, @GouvNE, sent out more than 600 tweets in 2013–2014. The tweets are one of the ways government shares important information and details about French-language programs and services with the Acadian and francophone community. Here are a few examples.

Radio and print advertising in French
In 2013–2014, government institutions ran more than 40 campaigns in the province’s French-language media to promote programs and services and to share important information with the public. Government advertises in Le Courrier de la Nouvelle-Écosse and on francophone community radio stations (CIFA, CKJM, CITU, and CKRH) to reach Acadian and francophone Nova Scotians.
$64,912*
Total spent on advertising in the province’s French-language media

Topics of French-language advertising and promotional campaigns

- Acadian flag licence plate
- Access Nova Scotia online services
- Agencies, Boards and Commissions (call for nominations)
- Bonjour! Awards for Excellence in French-language Services
- Budget 2013
- Crown land gates
- Election 2013
- Energy Training program
- Family and Seniors’ Pharmacare
- Heating Assistance Rebate program
- Insulin Pump program
- “Keep it Social / Restons sociables” high-risk drinking campaign
- Lobster Panel Review
- Minimum wage increase
- Medal of Bravery
- New Burning Advisory System
- Occupational Health and Safety 1-800 reporting line
- Order of Nova Scotia
- Protected areas
- Provincial Parks reservation line
- School Review public consultation
- “Take Yourself There” tourism campaign
- Workzone safety

* Advertising booked through Communications Nova Scotia
Translation services help to build on French-language material

Over the course of the 2013–2014 fiscal year, Acadian Affairs’ translation services translated 1.37 million* words for 45 government institutions. Of the 1.37 million words translated, 77% were from English to French and 23% from French to English. Translation services enable government institutions to increase the quantity of material and content available in French as well as to understand correspondence and documents they receive in French from the Acadian and francophone community.

**Breakdown of translation by institution***

- Labour and Advanced Education: 17.7%
- Communities, Culture and Heritage: 13.9%
- Health and Wellness: 10.2%
- Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations: 9.5%
- Communications Nova Scotia: 8.1%
- Community Services: 7.6%
- District Health Authorities: 7.4%
- Justice: 7%
- Education**: 6.4%
- Other institutions: 13.5%

**Words translated by source and target language***

- French to English: 23%
- English to French: 77%

**Words translated by fiscal year (millions)**

- 2008–2009: 1.6 million
- 2009–2010: 1.8 million
- 2010–2011: 1.7 million
- 2011–2012: 1.5 million
- 2012–2013: 1.85 million
- 2013–2014: 1.37 million

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* Translation services provided by Acadian Affairs. Does not include translations outsourced directly by departments, offices, and agencies.
** Education does not include translations completed for curriculum development.
New services in French

Some departments and institutions introduced new French-language services in 2013–2014. Here are a few examples.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NEW SERVICES</th>
<th>INSTITUTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One Book Nova Scotia community reading event</td>
<td>Communities, Culture and Heritage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WOW! Reading Challenge</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adopt-a-Library Literacy Program</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New tools for the PowerSchool and TIENET student</td>
<td>Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>information systems</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nova Scotia Burning Restrictions</td>
<td>Natural Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee and Family Assistance Program</td>
<td>Public Service Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access Nova Scotia Government Store (online)</td>
<td>Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Driver Insurance Abstracts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

New publications

The 2013–2014 fiscal year saw a number of new government publications made available in French, a selection of which are presented here.

- **Cape Breton District Health Authority**
  - Consent to Treatment form
- **Communities, Culture and Heritage**
  - WOW! Reading Challenge Rules and Regulations
  - Adopt-A-Library brochure
  - 2013 Progress Report: French-language services provided by the Government of Nova Scotia
  - An updated version of the Nova Scotia Public Libraries Check us out! brochure
  - 2014 African Heritage Month poster
  - Invitation and poster for a screening of the film *Toussaint Louverture*
  - 841 books to enhance Halifax Public Libraries’ French-language collections
- **Community Services**
  - Licensee’s Manual for Regulated Child Care Settings
  - Discussion paper on Amendments to the Day Care Regulations
  - A Legacy for our Children, Youth and Families
  - Child Abuse Register Request for Search forms
- **Economic and Rural Development and Tourism**
  - 2014 Doers’ and Dreamers’ travel guide
- **Education**
  - Guides for teachers and administrators on PowerSchool
  - Mi’kmaq History Month poster
  - Child care staff classification system forms and guide
- **Energy**
  - Sustainable Transportation Strategy
- **Health and Wellness**
  - Guidelines for Communicable Disease Prevention and Control for Child Care Settings
  - Hepatitis A brochure
- **Human Rights Commission**
  - Summary report on consumer racial profiling
- **Justice**
  - CyberSCAN, Safer Communities, and Bullying brochures
  - Discussion paper on the FLRP Phase II proposed amendments to the *Maintenance and Custody Act*
  - Nova Scotia Legal Aid Telephone Duty Counsel Manual 2009
  - Fact sheets for neighbours, friends and families on helping victims of domestic violence
  - EMO fact sheets
  - *Domestic Violence Intervention Act* brochure
  - December 2013 Domestic Violence Action Plan Update report and related facts sheets
  - Offender Handbook
  - Offender Phone System Frequently Asked Questions
- **Natural Resources**
  - 2013–2014 Camper Guide
- **Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations**
  - Municipal Annual Report
  - Municipal Financial Statements
  - What to do when someone dies brochure
- **Review Office**
  - 2012 Annual Report
Websites and web content

Government institutions maintain a range of websites that provide valuable information to the public. In 2013–2014, 28 government institutions had the Bonjour! logo or a link leading to French-language content on the homepage of their corporate website and 7 had bilingual* corporate websites. Here are some examples of new French-language websites and website content published during the fiscal year.

Examples of new websites and web pages

**Communities, Culture and Heritage**
- 12 feature stories on the department's website
- WOW! Reading Challenge website
- Information on Nova Scotia Museum events with an Acadian connection
- French pages and contact forms on the Provincial Library and African Nova Scotian Affairs websites

**Community Services**
- Child Abuse Register website content

**Education**
- Information on the new requirements for child care staff classification

**Justice**
- Offender Handbook and Offender Phone System frequently asked questions
- Summary Offence Ticket information
- Emergency Management Office preparedness for an emergency
- Applications and nomination forms for Lighthouses Community Grants

**Natural Resources**
- Tips and information about natural Christmas trees
- Burning restrictions information and map

**Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations**
- Additions to Municipal Services website
- Government Store — maps and publications
- Permits, forms, and licences
- Services for individuals
- Information on new cell phone Regulations, residential tenancies, Property Tax Rebate for seniors, Your Energy Rebate program, scams and fraud, moving, fitness membership rights, Buy Local licence plate, etc.

**Examples of websites in French**

Cultural competency workshops for government employees


**Bonjour! program materials**

The Bonjour! visual identification program is used by government institutions to let the public know that services are available in French. It includes desktop signs, posters, program support materials, and lapel pins for French-speaking staff. In 2013–2014, 810 pieces of Bonjour! program materials were distributed to seven government institutions.

* A website is deemed to be bilingual if its navigation menu is in French and links to French-language pages, and most of the content available on the English version site is available in French.
810
Pieces of *Bonjour!* program materials were distributed to government institutions in 2013–2014

692
Seats of French language courses filled by public servants in 2013–2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE OF <em>BONJOUR!</em> MATERIAL</th>
<th>NUMBER OF PIECES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lapel pins</td>
<td>215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desktop signs</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French keyboard toolbars</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program information pieces</td>
<td>390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(posters, cards, stickers, and brochures)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

French language training
Acadian Affairs offers French language courses through training providers to help improve government employees’ ability to communicate with the public in French. Over the 2013–2014 fiscal year, 692 seats of French language training were taken up by government employees, of which 62% were at the Beginner level, 21% at the Intermediate level, and 17% at the Advanced level.

French language training enrolments by level (%)

Policies, guidelines, and protocols to support French-language services
Here are a few examples of new or updated policies, guidelines, or protocols to support French-language services.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INSTITUTION</th>
<th>POLICIES, GUIDELINES, PROTOCOLS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capital Health</td>
<td>Updated its Interpretation Policy, highlighting the importance of French-language services in the care of francophone patients.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communities, Culture and Heritage</td>
<td>New external correspondence guidelines were developed and rolled out that provide guidance on bilingual business cards and email signatures, and French-language templates for letters, fax cover sheets, and memos.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Services</td>
<td>Revised internal translation protocols.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justice</td>
<td>A Court Services policy on French-language correspondence was developed and implemented.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Objective 3: Community engagement and outreach

Encourage the participation of the Acadian and francophone community in the development of government policies with a view to improving the delivery of services in French.

Government works with the Acadian and francophone community to build relationships, gather input, and work towards common goals.

Community engagement

Government institutions consulted with the public in various ways in 2013–2014, including online surveys, telephone consultations, focus groups, and face-to-face meetings. Here are a few examples of consultations which sought input from the Acadian and francophone community by offering ways to contribute in French.

- Access and privacy rights to personal health information under new legislation (PHIA)
- Dialogue on Domestic Violence and Abuse
- Education Review and Report Card Review
- Housing strategy consultation
- Mental health and addictions
- Funding under Official Languages in Education
- Proposed amendments to the Day Care Regulations
- Road Safety Survey and testing of voice recognition in French on the 511 road conditions service

Vive l’Acadie Community Fund

Donations collected from the sale and renewal of Acadian flag licence plates go into the Vive l’Acadie Community Fund to support cultural projects in Acadian and francophone communities. The donations collected in 2012–2013 were distributed to 10 regional Acadian and francophone community organizations to fund 14 projects, ranging from festivals and theatrical performances to workshops and heritage conservation. Over the course of the 2013–2014 fiscal year, 496 Acadian flag licence plates were sold or renewed, raising $24,800 to support community projects.
Projects funded by Vive l’Acadie in 2013–2014

- Célébrons la culture (La Picasse, Centre communautaire culturel)
- Célébrons nos artistes (Société acadienne de Clare)
- Célébrons Truro! (Centre communautaire francophone de Truro)
- Community awareness building workshop (Société acadienne de Clare)
- Conference on the development of Acadian women 1983–2013 (Centre scolaire communautaire Étoile de l’Acadie)
- Festival du bon temps (Conseil acadien de Par-en-Bas)
- Francofestival 2013 (Conseil communautaire du Grand-Havre)
- L’Acadie célèbre Louisbourg 300 (Société Saint-Pierre)
- National Acadian Day activities (Association du Centre communautaire de la Rive-Sud and Conseil communautaire du Grand-Havre)
- Performance of the play Petite Rochelle (Association francophone de la Vallée)
- Preservation of Pomquet’s Acadian heritage (Société acadienne Sainte-Croix)
- Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day celebrations (Conseil communautaire du Grand-Havre)
- Volunteer recognition evening (Conseil communautaire du Grand-Havre)

Partnering with the Acadian and francophone community

In 2013–2014, government institutions worked with Acadian and francophone community organizations to support a number of initiatives. Here are a few examples.

Sample initiatives

**Cape Breton District Health Authority**
- Worked with Réseau Santé Nouvelle-Écosse, the Centre scolaire Étoile de L’Acadie, and the Étoile de l’Acadie community centre.

**Capital Health**
- Sat on Réseau santé Nouvelle-Écosse’s board, representing district health authorities.

**Communities, Culture and Heritage**
- Invested $720,442 to support arts and culture, heritage, community initiatives, and library resources in Acadian and francophone communities. Projects supported include the Fédération culturelle acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse’s GénieArts program, the Fêtons la Mi-Carême festival, and the regional games of the Jeux de l’Acadie.

**Community Services**
- A French early intervention program in the Argyle region was put in place thanks to a partnership between the Centre provincial de ressources préscolaires, Conseil acadien de Par-en-Bas, Acadian Affairs, and Community Services.

**Economic and Rural Development and Tourism**
- Representatives from the Acadian and francophone community participated on the province’s Regional Enterprise Networks.

**Education**
- Worked with the Fédération culturelle acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse to promote the GénieArts program in schools.

**Justice**
- Provided funding to support the Association des juristes d’expression française de la Nouvelle-Écosse with Law Day.

**Health and Wellness**
- Met regularly with Réseau Santé Nouvelle-Écosse to better align work and maximize opportunities.
- Provided funding to Réseau Santé Nouvelle-Écosse to organize and host the Collaborative Forum on French-language Health Services.

**Nova Scotia Liquor Corporation**
- Partnered with Université Sainte-Anne and other Nova Scotia universities to produce the “Keep it Social / Restons sociables” campaign, which aims to reduce the potential for harm linked with high-risk drinking.

**Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations**
- Provided funding to Transport de Clare and Coopérative de Transport de Chéticamp.
Projects supported through the Vive l’Acadie Community Fund:

1 & 2. Christmas concert with Grand Dérangement and young musicians (Truro)

3. The Soirée africaine at the 2013 Francofestival (Halifax-Dartmouth)

4. 40th anniversary concert of Les Voix d’Acadie – part of the 2013 Francofestival (Halifax-Dartmouth)

5. Children’s Day performance of Bonhomme de pain d’épice with Anne d’Entremont (Argyle)

6. Performance of Petite Rochelle (Annapolis Valley)
It is estimated that one in five Canadians experiences a mental health problem or illness in any given year. By age 40, nearly half of people will have had an episode of mental illness. As with any illness, mental health issues can have an impact on other areas of people’s lives, including relationships and work. Programs and resources that help people access treatment early can lead to a quicker recovery and reduce the need for hospital stays. For Acadian and francophone Nova Scotians experiencing mental health issues, getting help and accessing resources in the language in which they can communicate best will often lead to better treatment outcomes. Be they community-led initiatives or services delivered directly to individuals, the Government of Nova Scotia is investing in French-language programs and projects to support psychological wellbeing.
PARTNERING WITH THE COMMUNITY TO IMPROVE MENTAL HEALTH OUTCOMES

Community-based solutions can play an important role in supporting mental health. The early detection and help that these programs provide are vital in ensuring quick treatment and recovery. The Department of Health and Wellness has partnered with Réseau Santé - Nouvelle-Écosse on a mental health project aimed at the Acadian and francophone community. This multi-year project will see a French-language guide on mental health and addictions launched. The guide will provide a directory of French-language resources, services, and training available in Nova Scotia for people experiencing mental health or addiction issues, and explain the steps to take to get the help they need. The guide will be distributed to the Acadian and francophone community and will be made available as a digital publication on the Réseau Santé’s website.

The second part of the project will offer two French-language mental health training programs to the Acadian and francophone community: Mental Health First Aid and safeTALK. These programs, which are aimed at healthcare professionals as well as teachers and the wider Acadian and francophone community, will be offered in the province’s ten Acadian and francophone regions. Sessions began in 2013–2014 and will continue into 2015.

HELP IS JUST A PHONE CALL AWAY WITH 811

Another place Acadian and francophone Nova Scotians experiencing mental health problems can turn is the 811 telecare service. This free line connects callers to a Registered Nurse, who can provide non-emergency health information and advice. Bilingual nurses are on hand to provide service in French, when needed. Callers can get answers to their mental health-related questions and recommendations regarding what to do next. The 811 website also hosts a large searchable store of French-language information sheets, which include many on mental health topics.

MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING PROGRAMS

These training programs are delivered in French by Réseau Santé - Nouvelle-Écosse through a partnership with the Department of Health and Wellness.

Mental Health First Aid training equips participants with the skills to provide early help to a person developing or experiencing a mental health problem. The training aims to improve mental health literacy and provide the skills and knowledge to help participants better manage existing or developing mental health issues.

safeTALK prepares participants to identify individuals with thoughts of suicide and connect them with suicide first aid resources. The program outlines four steps to guide a person to connect with intervention caregivers to get the help they need.
**SUPPORTING MENTAL HEALTH LOCALLY**

Responsible for the running of hospitals and healthcare facilities, district health authorities also took steps to support the mental health of Acadians and francophones at a more local level. Capital Health in Halifax Municipality produced a number of French-language guides and resources for its Acadian and francophone patients. These guides, many of which can be viewed on its website, include several that focus on mental health issues, such as *Living with Mental Illness: A Guide for Family and Friends*. Capital Health also engaged with the local Acadian and francophone community, working closely with organizations such as Réseau Santé - Nouvelle-Écosse on a host of initiatives to support psychological wellbeing.

Mental health was also a focus of outreach efforts with the Acadian and francophone community at Annapolis Valley District Health Authority (AVDHA) in 2013–2014. The health authority produced a French version of its Mental Wellness Helping Tree, which is a guide to community resources in the Annapolis Valley. The Mental Wellness Helping Tree was distributed to the Acadian and francophone community and is available on the AVDHA website. The health authority also hosted a session of Mental Health First Aid in French and provided a number of French-language rack cards and brochures on mental health to its patients.

At Guysborough Antigonish Strait Health Authority (GASHA), a French-speaking mental health clinician was employed to serve the schools of the Conseil scolaire acadien provincial in the GASHA district, as part of the Schools Plus / Écoles Plus program. Bilingual staff at GASHA also provided intake and counselling programs in French for Addiction Services and the Withdrawal Management Program throughout the district.

**BOOKS FOR MENTAL HEALTH**

A new collection of French-language mental health materials will provide Acadians and francophones with greater access to information on mental health through their local public library. The materials were purchased with funding from Nova Scotia Provincial Library and through the Canada – Nova Scotia Agreement on French-language Services. The materials cover a range of topics relating to psychological health and safety, from stress and depression to eating disorders and alcohol and drug addiction. The materials will be catalogued and made available in public libraries in 2014–2015.

**MENTAL HEALTH RECOVERY TREE**

In 2013–2014, Guysborough Antigonish Strait Health Authority unveiled the “Recovery Tree” on the wall of the Inpatient Mental Health Unit at St. Martha’s Hospital in Antigonish. The tree incorporates key words from the psycho-social rehab model in French, English, Gaelic, and Mi’kmaq.
Community organizations can play an important role in delivering programs and services that help government meet its goals and benefit local communities. The Government of Nova Scotia partners with a number of Acadian and francophone organizations on programs that support children and youth. We take a closer look at three of these programs here. From art initiatives that foster creativity and identity-building in the classroom, to programs that help parents better support their child’s French-language education, these community-government partnerships help youth reach their full potential.

**GÉNIEARTS**
GénieArts is a province-wide program that integrates artistic activities into the school curriculum. It is the French-language equivalent of the English-language ArtsSmarts program. The Fédération culturelle acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse (FéCANE) manages the French portion of the program, with support from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and Arts Nova Scotia. The program is run through a partnership agreement between the FéCANE and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, and a memorandum of understanding with Arts Nova Scotia.

The program allows Acadian and francophone artists to work with youth in CSAP schools and students in...
French immersion programs across the province. The program encourages youth to develop intellectually through proactive engagement with the arts and contributes to building an Acadian identity. Through the partnership, the Department of Education participates in an annual discussion with program partners to get an update and evaluate the program, and takes part in the evaluation and selection of projects, as needed. The educational benefits of the program extend even further, helping to foster a classroom environment that seamlessly combines knowledge, innovation, and creativity.

**EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM IN FRENCH**

The Early Intervention program provides at-home support and services in French for Acadian and francophone children in the Clare and Argyle regions who are diagnosed with or at risk for developmental delays. It helps children between the time they are born to when they enter school. The families who participate in the program receive at-home visits, where the support staff offer information and advice about activities and strategies that will help the child with a developmental delay reach their full potential. The program seeks to improve developmental outcomes for children. Other services offered include support for participating in community activities, transition to school, individual family service planning, and a toy and resource lending service.

The program is run by the Centre provincial de ressources préscolaires (CPRPS) through a service agreement with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. The service agreement outlines core services and standards for the program. With this program, CPRPS is able to provide early intervention services in French to Acadian communities in Yarmouth county in addition to the population already served in the Clare area. The CPRPS meets with Department staff and other Early Intervention programs twice a year to discuss matters related to service delivery.

**JE PARLE FRANÇAIS AVEC MON ENFANT**

The *Je parle français avec mon enfant* program offers French language instruction to parents who need help with their French. The program is open to parents whose children are eligible to attend Conseil scolaire acadien provincial schools and seeks to help parents better support their child’s learning development. Parents learn gradually as they work their way through reading, pronunciation, comprehension, grammar, and verb conjugation, an approach which is supported by classroom dialogue and role playing.

The program is delivered by Équipe d’alphabétisation Nouvelle-Écosse with funding from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and the Canada – Nova Scotia Agreement on French-language Services. Équipe d’alphabétisation consulted with provincial government departments and the Conseil scolaire acadien provincial about the program. More than 140 parents from across the province participated in the program in 2013–2014. *Je parle français avec mon enfant* contributes to improving the child’s transition to school life and educational achievement, thanks to better support from their parents.