

COMMUNITY OF BATHURST AND SURROUNDING AREAS



Overview of major initiatives implemented by Vitalité Health Network since 2014

Several initiatives have been implemented in the community of Bathurst and surrounding areas over the past two years to continuously better meet the public's primary health care needs. A brief overview of the major initiatives is presented below based on the five priority needs targeted by the community of Bathurst and surrounding areas Community Advisory Committee.

PRIORITY NEEDS

1 Reduction of social and economic inequalities

- Collaboration allowing the Network's facilities to promote a new service providing transportation to medical appointments outside the region. Unfortunately, the company has since stopped offering this service.

2 Prevention and health promotion (physical and mental)

- Policy on healthy dietary environments in all Network facilities to promote and encourage environments fostering healthy diets.
- Radio advertising campaign on stroke prevention.
- Smoking Cessation Program for inpatients, Extra-Mural Program patients, and health care system employees.
- Establishment of a narcotic use monitoring system in collaboration with the province's pharmacies. The system allows participating pharmacists and physicians to monitor narcotics between pharmacies.

3 Adjustment to an aging population

- Process for paramedical workers to refer at-risk seniors for Extra-Mural Program assessment of their home health care needs.
- Rapid rehabilitation and reablement services providing seniors with short-term intensive care and treatment to help them regain their independence and stay in their home following hospitalization or an incident in the community. The Extra-Mural Program delivers the above care and services in a timely, continuous, integrated, and intensive manner.
- Individualized Care Management (ICM) program designed to facilitate and support caring for patients with complex medical needs. These patients are thus better able to manage their health and improve their state of health and quality of life.
- Better discharge planning through improved communication with families in order to shorten seniors' hospital stays and promote a safe and faster return home or to long-term care.



4 Support for families, children, and youth (including those with special needs)

- Addition of a nurse practitioner providing sexual health services for youth in the region's schools.

5 Strengthening primary care

- Addition of a primary care access coordinator in the region. This initiative supports the implementation of strategies designed to provide accessible and comprehensive services and to forge sustainable partnerships between health system stakeholders and the community sector.
- Transfer of human resources from the Network to the Nepisiguit Medical Clinic in order to deliver services closer to the community (nutrition, respiratory therapy, blood sample collection).
- The Diabetes Clinic at the Chaleur Regional Hospital has forged links with community partners working in diabetes treatment.
- Partnership in a process to map out community assets so that the public sector services and private sector community health services in the Chaleur region are better known and more accessible.

In addition, the Network factored the needs resulting from evaluations into its strategic planning. In fact, while reading the [Strategic Plan 2017-2020](#), you will note the high level of importance placed on improving primary health care services and on tailoring health care services to people's varied needs and realities.