

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Improving Access to Mental Health Services for Francophones

**Victoria, British Columbia (September 27, 2021)** - The BC Association of Clinical Counsellors (BCACC) and RésoSanté Colombie-Britannique (RésoSanté) have agreed to formalize their collaboration with the aim of improving access to mental health services by Francophones in British Columbia. As part of the collaboration, BCACC will work with RésoSanté to enable provision of services in French by its qualified members and to also support the delivery of mental health workshops/presentations to the Francophone community.

According to the 2016 Canadian census, French is the first official language of more than 64,325 people in British Columbia, and 314,925 people can speak both English and French. These numbers have grown in the past five years as more Francophones have moved to British Columbia both from overseas and from other parts of Canada.

“Nous sommes extrêmement heureux de pouvoir améliorer l'accès aux services de santé mentale.” said Michael Radano, Executive Director of BCACC.

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**The BC Association of Clinical Counsellors (BCACC)** is a non-profit provincial professional association founded in 1988 with more than 5400 members. BCACC advocates for the Counselling profession and for public access to mental health services. Its members (Registered Clinical Counsellors – RCCs) are held to the highest standards of practice and a strict code of ethics in service and protection of the public.

**RésoSanté Colombie-Britannique** is a provincial non-profit organization created in 2003 following provincial and national studies demonstrating the differences in access to health services faced by Francophones in a minority situation in Canada. It supports and advocates with the provincial Ministry of Health for the health of the Francophone community of British Columbia.

For more information:

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