

Backgrounder

- Ontario leads the nation in the number of Donations After Cardiac Death (DCD) surpassing 100 donors in May 2010

DCD Donors by Hospital	
Hospital	Count
GRAND RIVER HOSPITAL CORPORATION	2
GUELPH GENERAL HOSPITAL	1
HAMILTON HEALTH SCIENCES CENTRE	8
HOTEL DIEU GRACE HOSPITAL	3
HUMBER RIVER REGIONAL HOSPITAL	1
LAKERIDGE HEALTH CORPORATION	1
LONDON HEALTH SCIENCES CENTRE	25
NIAGARA HEALTH SYSTEM	5
PETERBOROUGH REGIONAL HEALTH CENTRE	1
ROYAL VICTORIA HOSPITAL	1
SOUTHLAKE REGIONAL HEALTH CENTRE	1
ST JOSEPH'S HEALTHCARE SYSTEM -HAMILTON	1
ST. MARY'S GENERAL HOSPITAL	2
ST. MICHAEL'S HOSPITAL	4
SUDBURY REGIONAL HOSPITAL	1
SUNNYBROOK HEALTH SCIENCES CENTRE	15
THE HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN	5
THE OTTAWA HOSPITAL	10
THUNDER BAY REGIONAL HEALTH SCIENCES CENTRE	4
UNIVERSITY HEALTH NETWORK	7
WILLIAM OSLER HEALTH CENTRE	1
YORK CENTRAL HOSPITAL	1
Total	100

- The first DCD case in modern history of donation in Canada was performed at the Ottawa Hospital in June 2006.
- 2009 was a record-breaking year for Ontario with 218 deceased organ donors, including 37 DCD and 1,299 tissue donors
- A total of 246 lives were saved and since June 2006 as a result of a 100 DCD cases
- 63 per cent of DCD cases also donated tissue including bone, eyes, heart valves and skin

- Accreditation Canada standards include a requirement for policy on DCD
- DCD (Donation After Cardiac Death) - Organ donation after cardiac death or DCD offers families the option of donation in cases where neurological criteria for death has not been met, and the decision to withdraw life-sustaining treatment has been made. DCD occurs where following pronouncement of death based on “irreversible cessation of circulatory and respiratory functions” a patient’s organs are surgically recovered.
- NDD (Neurological Determination of Death) - Is the complete and irreversible cessation of all brain function. As a result of severe trauma or injury to the brain, the body’s blood supply to the brain is blocked, the brain dies and it cannot be revived.
- One organ and tissue donor can save up to eight lives and enhance as many as 75 others
- Today approximately 1,600 people in Ontario are waiting for a life-saving transplant
- While donor registrations in Ontario increased by nine per cent between November 30, 2008 and December 31, 2009, and despite the majority of Ontarians indicating that they support organ and tissue donation, only 17 per cent of Ontarians over the age of 16 with health cards have registered their consent to donate. To save and enhance lives, more Ontarians need to register their consent to donate organs and tissue now.
- Even if you’ve already signed your donor card, please also register your decision so that this information is accessible at the time of your death and talk to your family about your decision.
- You can register your consent to donate your organs and tissue by visiting your local ServiceOntario Health Card Services – OHIP office or outreach centre where you renew your health card. You can also register by downloading and filling out a Gift of Life Consent Form from www.giftoflife.on.ca and mailing it to the address on the form.

For more information on National Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Week or on Trillium Gift of Life Network, please visit www.giftoflife.on.ca. You can also call 416-363-4001 or toll free 1-800-263-2833.

Trillium Gift of Life Network is a not-for-profit agency of the Government of Ontario and is responsible for planning, promoting, coordinating and supporting organ and tissue donation across Ontario and improving the system so that more lives can be saved.