

Media Release

December 16, 2015

Give the Gift of Life this Holiday Season

TORONTO – For many, the holiday season is about celebration, the joy of giving and of receiving. But for 1,600 people in Ontario, there is only one gift they are hoping for: the gift of life. While most people look forward to treasured traditions, hundreds wait for a lifesaving transplant and wonder if this will be their last holiday season.

Many will spend Christmas morning in a hospital because they are in dire need of a liver transplant. Others celebrated Hanukkah on dialysis while they waited for a kidney. The transplant waiting list does not discriminate, people of all faiths and cultural backgrounds can find themselves in need.

“The holiday season can be a special time, where the importance of family and charitable giving is brought to the fore,” says Ronnie Gavsie, President and CEO of Trillium Gift of Life Network. “Why not use that time with family and friends to discuss the power we all have to give hope?”

When a family is presented with proof of their loved one’s wishes they almost always consent to donation, but without proof families consent only 50 per cent of the time. Having that conversation now, and registering consent at www.BeADonor.ca, means you could one day save a life.

This holiday season, join the 3.34 million Ontarians who have registered as organ and tissue donors.

Quick facts

- Every three days, someone in Ontario dies waiting for a lifesaving transplant.
- Everyone is a potential organ and tissue donor. To date, the oldest Canadian organ donor was 92 while the oldest tissue donor was over 100.
- One organ donor can save up to eight lives and improve the lives of up to 75 others through the gift of tissue.
- Learn how your community is doing at <https://beadonor.ca/scoreboard>.

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