

Media Advisory

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Ontario Sikhs encouraged to register as organ and tissue donors during Toronto Khalsa Day celebrations

TORONTO – Trillium Gift of Life Network (TGLN) is proud to partner with the Ontario Sikhs and Gurdwara Council (OSGC) to raise awareness of the importance of organ and tissue donation. On Sunday, April 24, more than 50,000 people will walk from the Canadian National Exhibition grounds to Nathan Phillips Square in celebration of Sikh pride.

“We are honoured to have been given the opportunity to share the importance of organ and tissue donation at such an important event for the Sikh community in Toronto,” said Ronnie Gavsie, TGLN President and CEO. “The Ontario Sikhs and Gurdwara Council (OSGC) has shown their commitment to this cause by setting up a donor registration campaign at www.BeADonor.ca/KhalsaDay. We’re very excited to watch their progress.”

Today in Ontario, over 1,600 people are on the waiting list for a lifesaving transplant. Every three days, someone will die waiting. A signed donor card is not enough. It takes two minutes to register as an organ and tissue donor through www.BeADonor.ca.

“Sikh teachings and philosophy place a great emphasis on the importance of selfless giving and sacrifice, says Bhupinder Singh, Chairperson, OSGC. “The last act of giving and helping others through organ and tissue donation is both consistent with, and in the spirit of, Sikh teachings. We are asking all attendees at the 2016 Khalsa Day Parade to show their Sikh pride through selfless giving by registering as organ and tissue donors.”

One donor can save up to eight lives and enhance up to 75 others through the gift of tissue. Everyone is a potential organ and tissue donor. To date, the oldest Canadian organ donor was 92 and the oldest tissue donor was over 100.

Media are invited to contact TGLN for more information on organ and tissue donation in Ontario, or to learn more about the partnership between the OSGC and Trillium Gift of Life Network.

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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.