

Quick Facts about Organ and Tissue Donation in Ontario



1,500 ONTARIANS WAITING

- Currently in Ontario, there are over 1,500 people on the waiting list for an organ transplant.
- Every three days someone in Ontario dies waiting for a life-saving transplant.
- Less than 20% of eligible Ontarians have registered consent to donate.
- Families of registered donors almost always reaffirm consent when they see evidence of their loved one's donation decision. If they are unsure or unaware of what their loved one would have wanted, consent is given only 50% of the time.

SAVE EIGHT LIVES

- One donor can save up to eight lives through organ donation as well as enhance the lives of up to 75 others through tissue donation.
- Everyone is a potential organ and tissue donor, regardless of his/her age. The oldest Canadian organ donor was over 90 years old, while the oldest tissue donor was 102.
- In fiscal year 2010, there were 213 deceased organ donors, 1,619 tissue donors and 675 organ transplants performed in Ontario.
- Organs and tissue that can be donated include: heart, liver, kidneys, pancreas, lungs, small bowel, stomach, corneas, heart valves, bone and skin.

HOW TO REGISTER

- There are now three options for registering your consent to be an organ or tissue donor:
 - You can register your consent to donate online at BeADonor.ca; or
 - You can register your consent in person at a ServiceOntario centre; or
 - You can visit BeADonor.ca to download, complete and mail a Gift of Life Consent Form
- The traditional donor card which Ontarians may carry in their wallet pre-dates Ontario's registry, so a signed donor card – while still valid – does not mean an individual is registered. Visit www.BeADonor.ca to check your registration status or to register for the first time.
- In almost all cases, families honour and respect their loved ones' donation decision if they are given evidence that it's what the loved one wanted. Therefore it is important to register your consent to donate and talk to your family about your donation decision, so that they are aware of your wishes.

DONATION AND TRANSPLANTATION IN ONTARIO

Since the establishment of Trillium Gift of Life Network in 2002:

- The number of deceased donors in Ontario has risen 47% (from 136 in 2002 to 200 in 2010).
- The number of transplants using organs from deceased donors has risen 32% (from 495 in 2002 to 653 in 2010).

Since the launch of Trillium Gift of Life's tissue program in 2007:

- Tissue donations have risen significantly. There were 1617 donors in 2010-2011, up from 848 in 2007-2008, representing an increase of 90%.
- The number of eye donors has increased significantly, growing by over 90% from 832 in 2007-08 to 1596 in fiscal year 2010-11.

INCREASING AWARENESS AND SHOWING SUPPORT

- To support the launch of BeADonor.ca, TGLN has released a marketing campaign designed to encourage and inspire Ontarians to register their consent online. The campaign will share the simple message: One organ donor saves up to eight lives.
- Ontarians will be able to share their registration as an organ and tissue donor with their social networks through Facebook and Twitter, directly after registering or confirming their consent on BeADonor.ca.
- "Be a Donor" badges allow users to add show their support visually on their Facebook or Twitter profile, increasing awareness for organ and tissue donation in Ontario.

For more details on Trillium Gift of Life Network please go to www.giftoflife.on.ca or call 416.363.4001 or toll free 1.800.263.2833.