

Media Release



For Immediate Release
December 20, 2011

TOO MANY ONTARIANS STILL WAITING FOR AN ORGAN TRANSPLANT *Give The Gift Of Life This Holiday Season*

Toronto, ON –More than 1,500 Ontario families are hoping for only one gift this holiday season: the gift of life for their loved one.

Ontarians are being asked to give the gift of life this holiday and register their consent to donate by visiting www.BeADonor.ca. Online registration only takes three minutes and can potentially save up to eight lives. People who are already registered are urged to speak to their family to inform them of their wish. Doing this helps improve the rate of successful donations.

“A signed paper donor card doesn’t mean you are registered,” says Ronnie Gavsie, President and CEO of Trillium Gift of Life Network. “Ontarians should visit www.BeADonor.ca to register their consent for organ and tissue donation or check to see if they are registered. By significantly increasing the number of registered donors in Ontario, deaths on the wait list can be eliminated and lives will be saved.”

Krystina Henniker and her family have been hoping for a miracle since she was diagnosed with dilated cardiomyopathy and placed on the heart transplant list in May 2010. The 25 year-old is a Hamilton mother of four who’s own mother died of the same disease in 2000.

“Waiting is very hard on the whole family,” explains Joanna Mitchell, mother of 6 year old heart recipient Ryley Mitchell and Krystina’s cousin. “Kids don’t understand why their Mommy can’t do normal things, and they worry they will lose her before she gets her ‘special heart’. It is so important to let your loved ones know you believe in organ and tissue donation. Registering consent is one of the most important gifts we can give.”

Quick Facts

- Every three days another person dies waiting for an organ transplant.
- One organ and tissue donor can save up to eight lives and enhance as many as 75 others.
- Only 20 per cent of Ontarians have registered their consent to donate.
- Only 50 per cent of families consent to donate their loved one’s organs when they aren’t aware of their consent to donate.

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.

Visit www.BeADonor.ca to register your consent to donate.

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