

# Media Advisory

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## **MORE FAMILIES CONSENT TO DONATION THAN EVER BEFORE**

TORONTO – New data available today from Trillium Gift of Life Network (TGLN), Ontario’s organ and tissue donation and transplantation agency, reveals that over the past five fiscal years, family consent to donation has increased by 78 per cent. This marks a growing trend among Ontario families to discuss donation and ultimately choose to save lives by donating their loved ones’ organs and tissue.

In the 2017/18 fiscal year (April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018), 335 deceased organ donors gave the gift of life, a 50 per cent increase since 2013/14. TGLN and its stakeholders have applied many system best practices that contributed to this increase, including:

- appointing donation physicians who work in-hospital to educate medical staff;
- offering the opportunity for donation to more patients and families as part of integrating donation into high-quality end-of-life care;
- providing on-going training for TGLN donation coordinators who care for families throughout the donation process; and
- increasing organ and tissue donor registration rates across Ontario communities.

The generosity of Ontarians has led to more lives saved. More than 1,200 people were given a second chance at life – a 30 per cent increase in lifesaving organ transplants over the past five years. This increase is also a result of the innovative practices at Ontario transplant centres that made more deceased donor organs available for transplant.

Along with Ontario’s generous organ donors, more than 2,100 tissue donors enhanced the lives of thousands. One tissue donor can improve the lives of up to 75 people. Eyes can restore sight; skin can help burn patients; bone can be used to regain mobility and heart valves can help patients with congenital heart disease.

Despite the rise in both donation and transplant, the need continues to outweigh the number of organs available for transplant. Today, 1,500 people in Ontario are waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant, and every three days someone dies waiting because they didn’t receive a transplant in time. But there is something that every Ontarian can do to help – register as an organ and tissue donor at [www.BeADonor.ca](http://www.BeADonor.ca).

**Associated links:**

- Updated donation and transplant statistics in Ontario are available at [www.giftoflife.on.ca/en/publicreporting.htm](http://www.giftoflife.on.ca/en/publicreporting.htm).
- Registration rates by community are available at [www.BeADonor.ca/scoreboard](http://www.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.*