



WELLNESS WORKS....

at Brain Injury Community Re-entry (Niagara) Inc.

A Publication from Brain Injury Community Re-entry Niagara's Wellness Works Committee

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ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION

Why Donate?



- Everyone is a potential organ and tissue donor, regardless of their age. To date, the oldest Canadian organ donor was over 90 years of age while the oldest tissue donor was 102 years old.
- Ultimately the ability to become an organ and tissue donor depends on several factors including the health of the organs and tissue at the time of death.
- Recovery of organs and tissue is carried out with respect and dignity. It does not interfere with funeral practices and no one will know about your gift of life unless your family tells them.

- Organs and tissue that can be donated after death include the heart, liver, kidneys, pancreas, lungs, small bowel, stomach, corneas, heart valves, bone and skin.
- Studies show that donating the organs and tissue of a loved one who has died can provide immediate comfort and long-lasting consolation to family members in their grieving.

REGISTER TODAY TO BE AN ORGAN AND TISSUE DONOR

One donor can save up to 8 lives.

One organ and tissue donor can save up to 8 lives and enhance as many as 75 more. By registering your consent to donate today, you can positively impact the lives of many Ontarians in need of organ and tissue transplants.

When you register for or renew your health card in Ontario, you can also register your consent to donate your organs and tissue.

If you have a signed donor card, you still need to register.

A donor card is a paper card carried by the prospective donor. Your decision to donate is only known to the extent that you share this decision with your family and friends. However, when you register your consent to donate organs and tissue, this information is stored in a Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care database and made available for the purpose of ensuring your decision to donate is known and respected.



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Make your wishes known to your family.

It is vitally important whether you decide to consent to donate or not, discuss your wishes with your family. By doing so, you relieve your family of the burden to decide whether to donate on your behalf during their time of grief.

Note: Studies have come to show that donating the organs and tissues of a loved one can provide immediate comfort and long-term consolation for family members.

Each year thousands of Ontarians get a second chance to live life to its fullest, thanks to the kindness of people who have given the gift of life and donated organs and tissue. But many more are still waiting. All too often lives are lost because suitable donors are not found in time. Many people will spend months, and in some cases years, waiting for a second chance because the need for organs and tissue in Ontario continues to outweigh their availability.

It doesn't have to be this way. Talk to your family about your decision to give life. One conversation can make all the difference for the future.

REGISTER YOUR CONSENT TO SAVE LIVES

How do you register your consent to be an organ and tissue donor?

If you are 16 years or older, and have a photo I.D. health card or red and white health card, you can register your consent by visiting your local ServiceOntario office, or download a Gift of Life Consent Form at www.giftoflife.on.ca, www.health.gov.on.ca, or www.healthyontario.com. If you have previously registered a decision of "Yes" to donate organs and tissue with OHIP, you do not need to re-register.

If I have signed my donor card, why do I need to register with OHIP?

A donor card is a paper card. Your decision to donate is only known to the extent that you share this decision with your family and friends.

When you register your consent to donate organs and tissue, this information is stored in a Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care database.



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Can my family overrule my decision to donate?

It is the Trillium Gift of Life Network's practice to reaffirm an individual's consent to donate with the family. In almost all cases, families honour and respect their loved ones' donation decision if they are given evidence that it's what the donor wanted. Therefore it is important to register your consent to donate so that your family can be advised of your decision to donate.

What organs and tissue can be donated?

Organs and tissue that can be donated include the heart, liver, kidneys, pancreas, lungs, small bowel, stomach, corneas, heart valves, bone and skin.

How does donation help other people?

Eye donation restores sight after disease, injury or congenital blindness.

Bone donation restores mobility and prevents amputation.

Hearts donated for heart valves repair birth defects in children and others.

Skin donation provides life-saving wound covering for burns.

Transplants not only save lives, they recapture productive lives. Outcomes continue to improve each year so more and more transplant patients are living enhanced, productive lives.

Can anyone register to be an organ and tissue donar?

Any Ontario resident who is at least 16 years of age can register their consent to donate their organs and tissues upon their death.

Can I choose which organs and tissue I want to donate?

You may indicate your decision to donate all organs and tissue or indicate which specified organs and tissue you do NOT wish to donate.



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The Green Ribbon



The green awareness ribbon is an international symbol of support for organ and tissue donation. Green symbolizes hope for those who are waiting for a second chance at life through transplantation; a reminder of the men, women and children who have died waiting for a life saving transplant; and a thank you to donors and their families for giving the greatest gift of all, the gift of life so that another could live on.

Waiting List by Organ

<u>Waiting List Year To Date</u>	<u>2011 YTD</u>
Liver	243
Heart	65
Kidney	1074
Lung	64
Heart Lung	1
PANCREAS	25
Kidney Pancreas	52
TOTAL ON WAITING LIST	1524

Transplants Year To Date

<u>Transplants Year To Date</u>	<u>2011 YTD</u>
Liver - From Deceased Donors	56
Liver - From Living Donors	11
Heart	18
Kidney - From Deceased Donors	98
Kidney - From Living Donors	53
Lung	25
Heart - Lung	0
Pancreas	2
Small Bowel	1
Kidney - Pancreas	6
TOTAL TRANSPLANTS PERFORMED	270