



Trillium Réseau
Gift of Life Trillium pour
Network le don de vie

Thursday, March 27, 2025

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Trillium Gift of Life Network | Réseau Trillium pour le don de vie
Levy, Rachel <rachel.levy@ontariohealth.ca>

Subject: April is BeADonor Month in Ontario

Good afternoon,

I am reaching out from Trillium Gift of Life Network (TGLN) to ask for your support for BeADonor Month during the month of April. BeADonor Month is an annual campaign led by TGLN to raise awareness about organ and tissue donation and transplantation in Ontario. It's a time to take meaningful action – whether by registering as a donor, having vital conversations with loved ones about your donation wishes, or spreading the word about the impacts of donor registration.

We are asking for your participation to help raise awareness among your network. To support your efforts, I have attached some information about how to get involved, as well as answers to frequently asked questions and key facts about donation and transplantation. I have also attached a template for a BeADonor Month Proclamation (in English and French) should you be able to proclaim April as BeADonor Month.

TGLN relies on support from community leaders and elected officials like you to use their platform to raise awareness about the importance of registering to become an organ and tissue donor. In doing so, you help nurture a strong culture of support for organ and tissue donation and transplantation to save more lives.

Last year in Ontario, 341 deceased donors gave the gift of life, leading to 1,035 organ transplants. Additionally, the lives of thousands were enhanced by the generosity of 1,975 tissue donors and their families. One donor can save up to eight lives through organ donation and improve the lives of up to 75 others through tissue donation.

On average, 1,400 people in Ontario are waiting for a life-saving organ while thousands more are in need of a life-changing tissue donation. Since 2003, almost 25,000 Ontarians have received a life-saving transplant. However, there is more work to be done to ensure no patient dies because they did not receive a transplant in time.

TGLN, as part of Ontario Health, oversees organ and tissue donation and transplantation across Ontario. Dedicated to saving and enhancing lives, TGLN equitably manages transplant waiting lists

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and facilitates the retrieval, distribution and delivery of donated organs and tissues to transplant hospitals or tissue banks. TGLN strives to make organ and tissue donation and transplantation accessible, efficient, and transformative for all patients and their families.

You can learn more about organ and tissue donation and transplantation and how to register to donate at www.beadonor.ca. If you have any questions, I welcome your contact at any time. I can be reached via email at rachel.levy@ontariohealth.ca.

We look forward to your active participation in BeADonor Month.

Sincerely,

Rachel Levy

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Manager, Public Education & Marketing

Acute & Hospital-Based Care | Soins aigus et hospitaliers

Trillium Gift of Life Network | Réseau Trillium pour le don de vie

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BeADonor Month

April is BeADonor Month. Throughout the month, communities and advocates across the province will unite to encourage Ontarians to register their consent for organ and tissue donation. BeADonor Month is more than a campaign – it's a chance to change lives. Whether you're registering for the first time, sharing your decision with loved ones or encouraging others to sign up, every action counts.

We are asking for your participation to help raise awareness for organ and tissue donor registration among your network.

Want to know how you can get involved? Here are some suggestions!

Marketing Materials

Trillium Gift of Life Network is happy to send you materials to display in your constituency office, including brochures, posters, green ribbons and pens. Please reach out to Rachel.Levy@ontariohealth.ca to request materials and we will mail them directly to your office.

Social Media

Download [graphics](#) to share on your social media accounts throughout the month and check out some sample social media content to use with it. Be sure to tag [@TrilliumGift](#) and use [#BeADonor](#) in your posts so we can help spread the word. Don't forget to link to beadonor.ca to encourage registrations!

Follow TGLN on social media to help amplify our message:

- [Instagram](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)

Green Shirt Day

On April 7, Canada will recognize National [Green Shirt Day](#), a day that acknowledges the importance of organ and tissue donation. Green Shirt Day was inspired by Logan Boulet, a Humboldt Broncos hockey player who saved six lives through organ donation after he tragically passed away in a bus accident in 2018. His legacy continues to inspire us and demonstrates the positive impact that organ and tissue donation can have. Wear green and share a selfie or post about why you support organ and tissue donation and transplantation on your social media channels to honour Logan and the thousands of donors who have given the gift of life. Don't forget to tag [#GreenShirtDay](#) and [#BeADonor](#).

Quick Facts about Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation

You can use these key messages to include a message about BeADonor Month on [social media](#), a [City Council meeting](#) or a [local newsletter](#).

- One donor can save up to eight lives through organ donation and improve the lives of up to 75 others through tissue donation.
- About 1,400 people in Ontario are waiting for a life-saving organ while thousands more need a life-changing tissue donation.
- Every three days someone in Ontario dies waiting for an organ.
- While over 90 per cent of Ontarians support organ donation, only 35 per cent of eligible Ontarians are registered donors.
- Everyone has the potential to be an organ and/or tissue donor regardless of age or medical history.
- People from every major religion have donated. Many religions support donation or respect an individual's choice.
- Visit www.beadonor.ca to register or learn more.

Common Myths and Misconceptions

There are numerous myths and misconceptions surrounding organ and tissue donation. These myth busters are great for use on social media to educate the public and encourage organ and tissue donor registration.

MYTH: A signed donor card is all I need to become a donor.

FACT: Paper donor cards are no longer in use, so you must register to become an organ and tissue donor at www.beadonor.ca or in person at ServiceOntario. Share your donation decision with your loved ones so they know your wishes.

MYTH: I can't be a donor; I am too old or I have existing medical conditions.

FACT: Everyone is a potential donor regardless of age or medical condition. Even individuals with serious illnesses can sometimes be donors. Your decision to register should not be based on whether you think you would be eligible or not. All potential donors are evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

MYTH: Organ donation will delay and impact funeral plans.

FACT: Organ and tissue donation will not delay or interfere with funeral plans. After donation, the family can carry out funeral arrangements as planned, including an open casket funeral, burial or cremation.

MYTH: Families have to pay for the cost of organ donation.

FACT: Donation does not come at a cost to the family. Organ and tissue donation is a gift. The costs of organ and tissue donation and transplantation in Ontario are covered by the Ministry of Health.

MYTH: My religion will not allow for organ donation.

FACT: People from every major religion have donated, and many religions support donation or respect an individual's choice. If you're unsure of your faith's position on donation, consult with your faith leader.

MYTH: I cannot donate blood, so I cannot be an organ donor.

FACT: The regulations for blood donation are different from those for organ and tissue donation. Even if you are not able to donate blood, you may still become an organ and tissue donor.

Share Your Activities

If you are participating in any BeADonor Month activities, our team would love to hear about it. If you're interested in sending us photos – especially video footage – from your BeADonor Month activities, please take a look at this [submission tip sheet!](#)