



News release

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ORGAN DONATION IN QUEBEC IN 2015 QUEBEC POSTS A RECORD INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF ORGAN DONATIONS AND TRANSPLANTATIONS

Montreal, March 8, 2016 – Transplant Québec marks a record in its history: In 2015, 549 people benefitted from a transplant thanks to 172 organ donors. As a result, the waiting list grew shorter for the fourth consecutive year, with 856 people registered as of December 31, 2015.

Quebec posted a deceased donor rate of 20.8 dpmp (donor per million population), followed by British Columbia (20.2 dpmp).

In order to sustain and even improve this performance, Transplant Québec reiterates that it is still possible to achieve better results.

2015 Highlights

- A 12% increase in the number of deceased donors compared to 2014 (154 donors) and 45% (53 donors) increase compared to 2010 (119 donors);
- An increase in the total number of transplant recipients in Quebec (549), and the best-ever year for the following organs: kidneys (284); heart (49) and lungs (57);
- In the second-best year, 2013, there were 165 donors and 503 transplantations;
- The unprecedented performance in Quebec was made possible thanks to the solidarity of Québec individuals and families who support organ donation and the commitment of all health professionals in the donation and transplantation network;
- The numbers on organ donation registries speak for themselves: 2,445,925 in the RAMQ registry (YES only) since February 27, 2011; and 1,261,899 in the registry managed by the Chambre des notaires du Québec (85% YES and 15% NO) since November 1, 2005. That's more than one in three Quebecers who formalized their consent in order to help people in need of a transplant.
- A very slight decrease was noted in the number of refusals on the part of families, for 40% of refusals in 2015, compared to 42% in 2014. These numbers are calculated out of the total amount of reasons for refusing referrals by Transplant Québec.

“The considerable efforts by Transplant Québec, particularly in the past three years, coupled with the efforts of hospital teams (intensive care units, emergency room and transplant programs) and other partners involved in the donation process, made it possible to boost Quebec’s performance to a record 20.8 donors per million population,” according to D^r Michel Carrier and D^r Jean-François Lizé of Transplant Québec.

Investing in organ donation is profitable

Human investment in the form of engagement by the Transplant Québec and hospital teams is definitely worth highlighting, but sustaining or even increasing number of transplantations remains a worthy objective.

Once again, the human and economic impact of transplantation has been demonstrated:

- On a human level, for the person and his or her loved ones, since transplantation provides a vastly improved quality of life, frequently after several years of heavy dialysis treatments in the case of kidneys and long-term hospitalizations in the case of other organs;
- The earlier the transplantation is carried out, the lower the risk of death is.
- On a financial level; in 2015 alone, savings of \$13.5M were generated in Quebec's health care system owing to the province's outstanding performance in organ donation, mainly through 343 kidney transplants (from deceased and living donors). What's more, since one in two kidney transplant recipients returns to the job market¹, there are considerable dividends for society.

Transplant Québec wishes to recall the necessity of investing in organ donation, in light of the excellent performance posted by Quebec. The results are there, and if the efforts to increase the offer of organs available for transplantation are sustained, the persons awaiting a transplant will benefit from shorter wait times. Esq. René Dussault, president of the board of directors of Transplant Québec, reiterated the importance of these investments: "The recognition of the benefits of organ donation, its affirmation as a social priority, and the sound organization of services offered by hospitals and Transplant Québec, constitute the three keys to the consolidation of the organ donation and transplantation system. For several years, the performances of Spain, France and the United States have amply demonstrated that we have a great deal to gain from investing."

Quote from Marie-Anne Fillion, double lung transplant recipient

"Born with cystic fibrosis, my lung capacity gradually deteriorated over the years, to the extent that in August 2010, I found myself on the waiting list for an eventual double lung transplant. I waited 30 months and spent more than nine months in a hospital room. In February 2013, I at last received the gift of life. I can't tell you how much it changed my life and my outlook on life. I've since undertaken the long process of resuming an active life: I began my post-secondary studies, and at the age of 20, I can now look forward to future projects. Today, I make it my duty to promote organ donation and greater public awareness of the cause."

About Transplant Québec

Transplant Québec has a mandate from the Minister of Health and Social Services to save lives and improve the health of persons in need of a transplant by coordinating the organ donation process, ensuring the equitable allocation of organs, supporting best clinical practices through consensus-building and the mobilization of its partners, and promoting organ donation in the society at large. Transplant Québec therefore works to ensure that the greatest possible number of Quebecers waiting for an organ can benefit from a transplant in as timely a fashion as practicable.

Complementary data – organ donation in Quebec at <http://www.transplantquebec.ca/en/press-releases>

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¹ Drawn from "Étude sur l'économie de l'insuffisance rénale" by Yves Rabeau, Ph.D., a study carried out for the *Fondation canadienne du rein-division du Québec*, November 2012.