



**TRANSPLANT
QUÉBEC**

*Ensemble pour
le don d'organes,
pour la vie.*

*Organ donation,
together for life.*

Press release

UNDER EMBARGO: February 13, 2014 at 7:00 a.m. (ET)

Organ Donation in Quebec

More than 500 people received a transplant in 2013 and the number of patients on the waiting list for a transplantation decreased by 15%, marking the first decrease in eight (8) years

Montreal, February 13, 2014 – In 2013, some 503 people benefitted from a transplantation thanks to 165 deceased donors in Quebec and their families, a significant increase of 45 donors compared to 2012. The number of people on the waiting list decreased by 15% from 1,250 people at the end of 2012 to 1,047 on December 31, 2013, thus matching the number of people on the list eight years ago. Also in 2013, a total of 38 deaths were reported among people on the waiting list, some 31 fewer than in 2012. That said, a single death is still one too many.

Transplant Québec is pleased, and there are grounds for cautious optimism.

Transplant Québec is proud to present a positive update. For the first time, Quebec has attained the benchmark of 20 deceased donors per million inhabitants (dpmi) with a rate of 20.2 donors. This also marks a first in Canada. “The efforts deployed by all stakeholders in the organ donation and transplantation system over the past three years and the measures undertaken by the government to support organ donation have begun to pay off,” said Louis Beaulieu, the organization’s CEO. “It is vital that we continue to build on this momentum.” At the same time, Transplant Québec remains cautiously optimistic. “When it comes to organ donation, nothing can be taken for granted,” added Mr Beaulieu. Indeed, if all the conditions were right each time organ donation was possible, the maximum number of donors per year would be slightly more than 300, according to the estimates of the Collège des médecins du Québec¹.

Transplant Québec will continue to support these collective efforts as actively as possible by collaborating closely with health and social services establishments when it comes to identifying all potential donors in critical care units and bringing the organ donation process to a successful conclusion. The organization once again invites citizens to officially signal their intentions regarding organ donation after death by registering their consent and duly informing their loved ones. Awareness promotion, public education and training are among the keys to success.

“As a representative of the families of donors and recipients on Transplant Québec’s board of directors, it is important that I remind people that organ donation can make all the difference in the lives of recipients and their families, but also for donor families – and they attest to this on a regular basis,” said Ms. René Dussault, president of the board.

Transplant Québec wishes to remind people that organ donation enables the health system to achieve savings, largely because the vast majority of kidney transplant recipients no longer require dialysis treatment. There were 275 deceased donor kidney transplants in 2013, and an additional 53 kidney transplants from living donors². In addition, a more timely organ transplant not only saves lives, but it also promotes speedier recovery times and reduces the significant costs incurred by lengthy hospitalizations, which are the norm for many people waiting for a vital organ such as a heart, liver or lung. “With a higher number of donors meeting the medical and legal criteria for organ donation, there is a higher probability of finding a donor more quickly, and hospitalization times and the risk of death are reduced as well. At the end of the day, our society as a whole benefits,” said Mr. Beaulieu.

¹ *Potential organ donors in Quebec-based hospitals in 2009.*

² Based on figures available from transplantation programs

Declaring one's intention to become a potential donor

Transplant Québec invites every citizen to learn more about organ donation, signal their intention to their loved ones, and take concrete action in one or more of the following ways. (www.signezdon.gouv.qc.ca):

- Sign the form titled *Consent to Organ and Tissue Donation* issued by the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec. The consent form is included with the renewal of health insurance card. It may also be ordered at any time by calling 1 800 561-9749.
- Sign the consent sticker upon reception of your new health insurance card and affix it to the back of the card.
- Register your consent (or refusal) with the *Registre des consentements au don d'organes et de tissus* administered by the Chambre des notaires du Québec

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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Source :

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