



**For immediate release**

## **World Day for Organ Donation and Transplantation**

### ***SPEAKING TO LOVED ONES ABOUT OUR INTENTIONS REGARDING TO ORGAN DONATION***

**Montréal, October 17, 2018** – To mark World Day for Organ Donation and Transplantation, Transplant Québec encourages all Québec citizens to speak to their loved ones about their intentions concerning organ donation if they have yet to do so. Equally important is registering your intentions in writing by joining one of the consent registries.

Organ donors are few and far between. Throughout the world, slightly more than one in 100 hospital deaths meet the medical and legal criteria for organ donation. In Québec, this represents some 400 people per year if optimal conditions are met in each case. That's why each consent matters.

"Saying yes to organ donation brings comfort to loved ones by lending a certain meaning to a person's death. This altruistic gesture of solidarity has allowed more than 500 people to benefit from a transplantation in the last year and given hope to hundreds of others waiting for a transplant," said Mr. Jean Gravel, President of the Board of Directors of Transplant Québec. "Speaking to your loved ones about organ donation can make a real and valuable difference. On dying, a person can save up to eight lives through organ donation and give renewed health to 20 others through tissue donation. Families that know about their loved ones' wishes have been shown to respect those wishes when that person passes away. Having already discussed this delicate issue makes it easier for the family to come to a decision at this very difficult time," said Mr. Louis Beaulieu, Chief Executive Officer of Transplant Québec.

### **Three ways to indicate your consent in Québec:**

- By signing your Consent to Organ and Tissue Donation form issued by the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec (attached with the health insurance card renewal notice). The form can also be ordered by calling 1-800-561-9749;
- By meeting a notary to register your consent (or refusal) in the Chambre des notaires du Québec's organ donor *registry* (*Registre des consentements au don d'organes et de tissus*);
- By signing the consent sticker and affixing it on the on the back of the health insurance card upon renewal, or by ordering the sticker on the *Signez don website* at [www.signezdon.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.signezdon.gouv.qc.ca)

Transplant Québec wishes to remind people that signing up to one of the registries is the best way to confirm your consent, as once consent is registered, it remains sustainable over time.

### **Number of people registered on each transplant registry**

- Through September 30, 2018, **close to four in 10 Quebecers registered their consent to organ and tissue donation** in one of the two registries. Registration has increased steadily:
  - ✓ 3,152,183 in the RAMQ registry (YES only)
  - ✓ 1,728,938 in the Chambre des notaires registry (85% YES AND 15% NO)

**Did you know that...**

- Any person, regardless of their age, can be a potential donor when they die. What matters is the quality of the organs. To date, Québec's oldest organ donor, a liver donor, was 92 years old. Another 76-year-old donor saved five people.
- In Québec, any person may become an organ donor after death, regardless of their religion, race or sexual orientation. All potential donors are subject to an eligibility assessment by the care team and Transplant Québec.

**Reminder concerning organ donation highlights (data through December 31, 2017)**

- **182 donors:** Increase in the number of deceased donors compared to 2016 (170 donors); that's 50% more than in 2012 (120 donors).
- **510 transplant recipients:** Increase in the number of transplant recipients compared to 2016 (480). In total, some 2,442 people received a transplant in the last five years (2013 to 2017), for an average of 488 people per year.
- **786 people waiting for a transplant:** The number of people waiting for a transplant has decreased by close to 40% since 2011 (from 1,264 in 2017), which represents close to 500 fewer people on the waiting list.

**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.

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**Source and information :****Transplant Québec**

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