



## **ORGAN DONATION IN 2017: RESULTS THAT GIVE US REASON FOR HOPE**

### **Increase in the number of donors and transplant recipients and reduction in the number of people waiting for a transplant**

**Montreal, March 14, 2018** – Transplant Québec is proud to announce that 510 people received a transplant thanks to the generosity of 182 organ donors and their families. Consequently, the waiting list grew shorter for sixth consecutive year, to 786 people registered through December 31, 2017.

“A colossal effort has been made to promote organ and tissue donation in Québec, and the year 2017 is proof that our efforts have borne fruit. The results are encouraging, and we can be proud of the progress we’ve achieved,” said Mr. Jean Gravel, president of the board of directors of Transplant Québec. Transplant Québec Chief Executive Officer Louis Beaulieu added the following, however: “There’s a great deal left to accomplish if we hope to meet our transplantation targets, specifically when it comes to training health professionals, organizing hospital organ donation services and programs, and educating the greater public. We’re aiming for 220 deceased donors and 700 transplant recipients per year by 2021, along with a significantly shorter waiting list. Meeting these objectives will be possible, as a few million dollars will be invested to generate several million dollars in recurring savings annually. Investing in organ donation is profitable for society.”

#### **2017 highlights**

- Increase in the number of deceased donors (**182 donors**) compared to 2016 (170 donors); that’s 50% more than in 2012 (120 donors).
- Increase in the number of transplant recipients: **510** (compared to 480 in 2016). In total, 2,442 people received a transplant in the last five years (2013 to 2017), for an average of 488 people per year.
- Reduction in the number of people waiting for a transplant. The number of people on the transplant waiting list has shrunk by close to 40% since 2011 (from 1,264 to **786** in 2017), which represents close to 500 fewer people on the waiting list.
- An almost 60% reduction in wait times for a kidney transplant compared to 2012, from 1,220 days to 493 days.
- An estimated \$17M in annual net recurrent savings generated for Québec’s health care system in 2017 alone, thanks to Québec’s organ donation performance. The 340 kidney transplants (from deceased and living donors) performed over the course of the year are just one example. In addition, since one in two kidney transplant recipients resumes an active life<sup>1</sup>, the dividends for society are considerable, not to mention the benefits on a human level.

Complementary information sheet available at <http://transplantquebec.ca/communiqués> (available in French only).

<sup>1</sup> Taken from the *Étude sur l'économie de l'insuffisance rénale*, Yves Rabeau, Ph.D., with financing from the Québec Branch of The Kidney Foundation of Canada, November 2012.

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

- Through December 31, 2017, **close to four in 10 Quebecers registered their consent to organ and tissue donation** in one of the two registries. Registration has increased steadily:
  - ✓ 2,968,406 in the RAMQ registry (YES only)
  - ✓ 1,601,818 in the Chambre des notaires registry (85% YES AND 15% NO)

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

- By signing the 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)

Through organ donation, one person alone can save up to eight lives and give renewed health to 20 other people through tissue donation. Transplant Québec thus invites all citizens to indicate their consent in writing as soon as possible and, just as importantly, discuss their wishes in favour of organ donation with their loved ones so as to ensure that their decision is respected upon dying.

### **Quotation from Maude Schneider, kidney transplant recipient**

"From the time I was born, I've had more than 50 surgeries and received dialysis treatment for three years to counter the effects of Vater syndrome, a rare and incurable congenital condition that's genetic in origin and generally affects the renal, vertebral, cardiac and gastrointestinal systems. I had the extraordinary good fortune of receiving a kidney transplant in 2008. The transplant gave me a new lease on life, and it's a gift I honour by taking good care of myself, both in terms of nutrition and physical condition, and by promoting organ donation," said 35-year-old snowboarder and nurse Maude Schneider, winner of two gold medals at the Winter World Transplant Games in January 2018. After winning gold at the Winter World Transplant Games in 2012, and then repeating the exploit in 2014, Maude thus attained the objective she'd set for herself: to be a three-time gold medal champion. She hopes to defend her title at the next Winter World Transplant Games in 2020.

### **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.

-30-

### **Source and information :**

#### **Transplant Québec**

Doris Prince, Transplant Québec  
514 286-1414, extension 216 / 514 349-0752

Diane Jeannotte  
514 772-8019