
EMBARGO

Until
October 17, 2025
at 8:30 a.m.

Transplant Québec marks its first full year of coordinating the transportation of organs by ground

Montreal, October 17, 2025 – *On the occasion of World Organ Donation and Transplant Day, Transplant Québec marks its first year of coordinating the ground transport of organs on a Quebec-wide scale, in collaboration with province's police forces.*

This system, the only one of its kind in Canada, was first established in 1987. Each year, it ensures the transport of several hundred organs. While it has been in place for almost four decades, its coordination was entrusted to Transplant Québec in 2024, marking an important milestone on the road to optimizing the organ donation and transplantation process.

For the past 38 years in Quebec, vehicles transporting organs have been driven by police officers volunteering their time in support of the cause. "A total of 764 organs were transported by land in 2024. Between 1987 and 2024, about 44,000 volunteer hours were dedicated to emergency transport, accounting for more than two and a half million kilometres travelled. That's incredibly impressive, and it's unique to Canada. In other jurisdictions, organs are transported by taxi or by ambulance. We're extremely proud of this groundbreaking collaboration," said Martine Bouchard, President and Executive Director of Transplant Québec.

One of Transplant Québec's objectives is to improve the efficiency and flow of the organ donation process in Quebec. "Obviously, we were prepared to shoulder the added responsibilities that go along with acquiring 11 organ transport vehicles. Entrusting our organization with these responsibilities, with the collaboration of our partners, marks a further step toward saving more lives in Quebec and becoming an international model for organ donation and transplantation," said Martine Bouchard. She added: "Strong leadership and rigorous coordination are essential to ensure efficiency across Quebec's organ donation and transplantation system."

A factsheet on organ transport is available [here](#). ↘

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ORGAN TRANSPORT AT A GLANCE

- 764 organs transported in 2024
- Between 1987 and 2024*:
 - Close to 26,000 emergency organ transports carried out by police organizations throughout Quebec
 - About 44,000 volunteer hours dedicated to emergency transport.
 - Close to 2,500,000 kilometres travelled for emergency organ transport purposes.

Source

Transplant Québec

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HIGHLIGHTS (2024)



1,116 organ donation referrals made to Transplant Québec.



856 people registered on the single waiting list managed by Transplant Québec (as of December 31).



551 people received a transplant in Quebec thanks to the generosity of deceased donors and their families.



Wait times for lung and heart transplants are at their lowest in history, with an average of 49 and 156 days, respectively.



206 deceased donors in Quebec made it possible to transplant 644 organs.

About Transplant Québec

The Minister of Health and Social Services has mandated Transplant Québec 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 society. Transplant Québec strives to ensure that as many Quebecers as possible who are waiting on an organ can receive a transplant in a timely manner.

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* Canadian Organ and Tissue Donors Association