



**TRANSPLANT
QUÉBEC**

*Ensemble pour
le don d'organes,
pour la vie
depuis **50**ans*

COMMUNIQUÉ

Embargo until April 23 , 2023 at 7 a.m.

NATIONAL ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION AWARENESS WEEK FROM APRIL 23 TO 29, 2023

Start a conversation to save more lives.

Montreal, April 23, 2023 – To mark National Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Week, Transplant Québec wishes to remind people of the importance of giving their consent to organ donation and speaking to their loved ones about it. “It is vital that people tell their loved ones that they intend to be an organ donor if that’s the decision they have made. Let’s remember that refusals on the part of families are the second-leading cause of organ donation referrals being rejected in Québec,” explains Martine Bouchard. “Speaking to family members about your intentions means that they don’t have to make a difficult decision in a crisis situation and that they can accept the donor’s decision when the times comes.”

Even when a person consents to donate their organs before dying, too often, still, medical staff must deal with a refusal on the part of the families concerned, at a time when the latter are already reeling from the sudden loss of a loved one. It is vital, therefore, that people make official their intention to donate their organs by signing the organ donation consent sticker or registering to join one of the organ donation registries: ditesle.ca

“Each donor can save up to eight lives. Last year alone, some 483 people received a transplant thanks to 171 donors. Each person who gives their consent plays a role in the life expectancy of hundreds of people waiting for an organ,” said Martine Bouchard, executive director of Transplant Québec.

While the number of organ donation referrals to Transplant Québec has increased, and while half of Quebecers have formally given their consent to serve as donors upon dying, there were still 913 people waiting for an organ transplant in the past year.

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 consensusbuilding 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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