



PRESS RELEASE

Embargo: March 27, 2019, 7 a.m.

ORGAN DONATION IN QUÉBEC IN 2018

NEWLY RELEASED FIGURES PAINT A LARGELY POSITIVE PICTURE AND UNDERScore THE IMPORTANCE OF INVESTING

Montreal, March 27, 2019 – According to data published today by Transplant Québec, 497 Quebecers benefitted from a transplant in 2018 thanks to the generosity of 164 deceased donors and 46 living donors. As of December 31, 2018, 805 people were listed on the single waiting list managed by Transplant Québec. These newly released figures point to a significant increase in the number of hospital referrals combined with a decrease in other specific results, which may be attributed to multiple causes and underlying factors. These causes include the fact that many referrals to Transplant Québec did not result in organ donation because the donor had a disease (pre-existing or actual) at the time of death. In the meantime, treatment to patients with brain injuries has steadily improved, resulting in fewer people being declared brain dead.

“The 2018 report reflects the significant scope of organ donation activities in Québec and sustained efforts by Transplant Québec and health professionals to perform organ donation. Our efforts will continue so that even more families can be encouraged to support organ donation when they lose a loved one,” said Jean Gravel, President of the Board of Directors of Transplant Québec. Those sentiments were echoed by Louis Beaulieu, Chief Executive Officer of Transplant Québec: “Our annual report shows that collectively we need to do even more to save lives, by training health professionals, improving organ donation services in hospitals, and educating the general public so that we can meet our targets in terms of outcomes. That’s why we presented a symposium for health professionals on March 19 and 20 and also held the “Say it however you want. But say it.” public awareness campaign. And additional human and financial resources will be vital to our success in this regard.”

2018 highlights

- **805** people waiting for a transplant (786 in 2017). In spite of a slight increase observed in 2018, the number of people waiting for a transplant has decreased by almost 40% since 2011 (from 1,264 to **786** in 2017), which represents close to 500 fewer people on the waiting list.
- **755** referrals by hospitals, an increase of 14% in the number of referrals (compared to 664 in 2017). Since 2010, this number has steadily grown (from 388 to 755 in 2018, a 60% raise); this continued progress broadly reflects the energy invested by Transplant Québec in training health professionals, as well as the vigilance of the latter in identifying potential donors. It bears recalling that only 1.4% of people who die in hospital are likely to become organ donors, which is equivalent to a maximum of 450 people annually if all the conditions are fulfilled in every case.
- **497** people were transplanted in Québec, compared to 564 in 2017;
 - **451** people transplanted in Québec thanks to the generosity of deceased organ donors and their families (510 in 2017). In total, close to 2,400 people were transplanted in the past five years (2014 to 2018), which represents an average of 478 people per year.
 - 46 people transplanted thanks to living donors (based on information provided by the living donor transplantation programs responsible for these activities).
- **164** deceased donors in Québec (182 donors in 2017) made it possible to transplant **537** organs (597 in 2017).
- **28** people died awaiting a transplant, compared to 54 in 2017. This was the lowest number of deaths since 2009.

Complementary information sheet available at <http://www.transplantquebec.ca/en/press-releases>

Two major events held recently by Transplant Québec to promote organ donation

Transplant Québec held a symposium in Trois-Rivières on March 19 and 20, 2019, with the objective of further promoting organ donation across Québec. This event drew close to 140 professionals in the field, allowing them to learn more about best practices and share promising experiences in organ donation and transplantation.

On March 19, Transplant Québec launched a province-wide communications campaign aimed at encouraging citizens to formally share their intentions with their loved ones, so that their wishes are clear. The campaign is also meant to promote greater knowledge of organ donation. This campaign runs until early May and will culminate during National Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Week 2019 (April 21 to 27). It is expected to help increase the number of people signing up to the organ and tissue registries operated by the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec's (RAMQ) or the Chambre des notaires du Québec.

Through organ donation, a person can save up to eight lives and give renewed health to 20 other people through tissue donation. Transplant Québec reminds people that registering for one of the registries is the best way to confirm consent. Doing so, in each instance, is permanent, does not require renewal, and is accessible to authorized personnel at the opportune time.

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 : Transplant Québec

Information :

Doris Prince, Transplant Québec
514 286-1414, poste 216 / 514 349-0752
doris.prince@transplantquebec.ca

Diane Jeannotte
514 772-8019
dianej@djcom.ca