



**TRANSPLANT
QUÉBEC**

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



PRESS RELEASE

EMBARGO UNTIL OCTOBER 16, 3h30 PM

TRANSPLANT QUÉBEC AND THE POLICE COMMUNITY UNITE FOR ORGAN TRANSPORT

Montreal, October 16, 2024 — With over 50 years of recognized expertise, Transplant Québec announces that it will assume full responsibility for organ transportation across Québec starting mid-October 2024.

These new responsibilities assigned to Transplant Québec highlight its leadership and pivotal role within the organ donation and transplantation ecosystem. This marks a significant milestone that will play a key role in enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of the highly complex organ donation and transplantation process.

Increased efficiency

Organ transport is a vital step in the organ donation and transplantation process, and is made possible through the collaboration between Transplant Québec and the Québec law enforcement community. To fulfill its new responsibilities, Transplant Québec has acquired 11 transport vehicles formerly owned by the Canadian Organ and Tissue Donors Association (CODA), which has opted to step down after 37 years of devoted service. In addition to coordinating organ transport, Transplant Québec will now manage partnership agreements with law enforcement.

This represents the continuation of a commitment to a cause deeply valued by volunteer police officers and all those involved, aligning seamlessly with their core value of community service. In support of Transplant Québec, the Sûreté du Québec serves as a facilitator for this initiative and will coordinate with transportation partners across Québec, particularly in matters related to fleet management.

Responsibilities that align with the recommendations of Transplant Québec

The assignment of these new responsibilities aligns with the recommendations Transplant Québec presented to the parliamentarians of the National Assembly of Québec last January as part of its mandate to explore ways to facilitate organ and tissue donation. Transplant Québec emphasized the necessity of designating an organization responsible for overseeing the proper functioning of the entire process and equipping it with the essential tools to ensure compliance.

An information sheet on organ transportation is available [here](#).

Quotes

"I welcome this partnership between Transplant Québec and the Sûreté du Québec, which will ensure the rapid and safe transport of organs. Our government was dedicated to this, and I am extremely proud to make this announcement today. I would also like to thank Mr. Richard Tremblay of the CODA who provided organ transport services for years and helped save many lives."

- *Sonia Bélanger, Minister for Health and Minister Responsible for Seniors*

"Since 1987, hundreds of volunteer police officers from across Quebec have played an active and essential role in organ transport. Last year, law enforcement and partners volunteered more than 85,000 km of road, regardless of the time of day or weather conditions. Together, they carried out more than 750 transports of organs and medical teams.

Today, both the Sûreté du Québec and its partners are proud to pursue this noble mission in partnership with Transplant Québec."

- *Johanne Beausoleil, General Manager of the Sûreté du Québec*

"Over the past year, Transplant Québec has prepared to assume greater responsibilities in the context of the National Assembly's work on this issue. Today, in the absence of a more robust legislative framework, these new responsibilities represent an additional step toward enhancing the donation and transplantation process. We thank Mr. Richard Tremblay for his trust in Transplant Québec and his contribution to the cause of organ donation over nearly four decades."

- *Martine Bouchard, Executive Director of Transplant Québec*

About Transplant Québec

With the goal of saving lives or improving the health of people who need a transplant, Transplant Québec, under the mandate of the Minister of Health and Social Services, coordinates the organ donation process, ensures fairness in organ allocation, supports the improvement of clinical practices through consultation and mobilization of partners, and promotes organ donation in society. Transplant Québec actively contributes to ensuring that as many Quebecers as possible waiting for an organ can benefit from a transplant.

About the Sûreté du Québec

The Sûreté du Québec is dedicated to maintaining peace, public order and public safety, as well as the prevention and punishment of crime. Its members ensure the safety of people and property, safeguard rights and freedoms, are attentive to the needs of victims and collaborate with the community. As the national police force, the Sûreté du Québec supports the police community, coordinates major police operations, contributes to the integrity of governmental institutions and ensures the safety of transport networks under Québec jurisdiction. Additionally, it operates a central intelligence service available to other law enforcement organizations.

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Source : Transplant Québec

Information and request for interviews

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