

GIFT OF LIFE

It's a fact that many Canadians state they will be an organ donor. However, unless you register at the website **be a donor.ca** your wishes will not be carried out. The goal of the CANADIAN TRANSPLANT SOCIETY is to ensure that every Canadian knows about organ and tissue donation and that everyone sign their donor cards. Organ and tissue donors are **urgently** needed!. The waiting list for organs is very long. There are 1500 patients waiting on the life-saving organ transplants list in Ontario alone. .It takes 2 minutes to register and that 2 minutes could save **8 lives**.

Have you given any thought to donating your organs or tissues after your death? It's not a pleasant subject to think about. However that time will come to all of us. It's inescapable. I realise that there are some who still do not understand the importance of making this decision. If you do, it **is imperative** that you inform your family and executor in order for your wishes to be carried out quickly after your death. Doing that relieves your family of that burden as the decision has been made by you. . Tissue donations can affect 78 people and give the recipients a much-improved life. Think of burn victims for example.

A family member was the recipient of a donated liver 14 years ago. It is certain that he would have died if the liver transplant had not been available to him. He would never have known the joy of having and interacting with his 4 grandsons. He feels blessed. He and his

spouse have had season's tickets for the Sudbury Wolves for a number of years. They live at Black Lake where they go fishing almost daily and have an active social life.

The youngest member of my husband's family was very fortunate to receive 2 kidneys in a ten year period. He fell in love, got married and thoroughly enjoyed his granddaughters

Why have healthy organs be burned or buried when so many people can be helped to enjoy an improved life? Think about it, please? It makes no sense.

In Canada, donors cannot be paid for transplant organs. A potential liver donor must have the following characteristics: 1) be aged 18 – 60 2) be in overall good health – physical and mental 3) have a compatible blood type with the recipient 4) have a BMI of less than 35 during testing. Extensive testing is done for compatibility such as blood tests, liver-function tests, a CAT scan, interviews with a psychiatrist. Donors should not drink or smoke. (Globe & Mail – p.L7 January 28, 2015).

The surgery itself takes about 6 hours. Full recovery takes 6 - 12 weeks