

PCanadian Paramedicine



Milley, has moved on and TGLN has submitted the following article highlighting the record number of Tissue Donors in 2013. These are encouraging statistics with remarkable possible outcomes.



beadonor.ca

Record Number of Tissue Donors in Ontario in 2013

When people think about organ and tissue donation, they usually focus on the lifesaving benefits of donating an organ such as a heart or lungs. One organ donor can save the lives of up to 8 people, but did you know that a single donor can also significantly enhance the lives of up to 75 others through the gift of tissue?

According to Trillium Gift of Life Network, Ontario's organ and tissue donation agency, in 2013 there were more than 1,800 deceased tissue donors, up from 1,702 the year before. The benefits of donated tissue in the life of a recipient are difficult to overstate. Whether you are talking about someone receiving the gift of sight through a corneal transplant, a fire victim with severe burns granted a new lease on life after receiving donated skin grafts, or a child who is able to run and play after receiving heart valves, tissue donation offers far-reaching and often lifesaving benefits to recipients.

"Tissue that can be donated for transplant in Ontario includes corneas, bone, skin, and heart valves", explains TGLN President and CEO Ronnie Gavsic. "The potential to become a tissue donor is far greater than an organ donor and the impact is profound for recipients."

The increase in tissue donors in 2013 reflects growing awareness among Ontarians about the importance of registering consent as an

organ and tissue donor. Both organ and tissue donation save and/or dramatically improve the lives of recipients. Unfortunately, with over 1500 Ontarians currently awaiting organ transplants, one of whom will die every three days, the need for donors continues to outweigh the supply.

Fortunately, registering your consent has never been easier and can be done in several quick and convenient ways. Ontario Paramedics can lead by example by registering their consent online at www.beadonor.ca, in person at any ServiceOntario location across the province, or by completing and returning the TGLN consent form by mail.

Trillium Gift of Life Network is a not-for-profit agency of the Government of Ontario responsible for planning, promoting, coordinating and supporting organ and tissue donation for transplantation across Ontario and improving the system so that more lives can be saved.



TPA PATCH

Brian Annett

The Toronto Paramedic Association were pleased to host the launch event of the 2nd annual Canadian Paramedic Memorial Ride. The Ride is a not-for-profit organization run by volunteer paramedics and cyclists, and is dedicated to raising funds in support of a National Paramedic Memorial Monument which will be built in Ottawa, Ontario. According to the Canadian Paramedic Benevolent Society website; <http://www.paramedicmemorial.ca>, since 1988, 36 Canadian Paramedics

have lost their lives in the line of duty. This important monument will be a place where family, friends, colleagues and civilians can go to remember their loved ones and to honour all Canadian Paramedics. The ride is a four day event which allows paramedics and civilians to challenge themselves. The ride is annual and a public event. The ride is not a race and there are no time trials. Every rider supports the cause as part of their registration fees which directly go to the monument fund.

The TPA is also launching a Pink epaulette campaign. This event allows Toronto Paramedics to place the pink epaulettes on their uniforms for the duration of the month of October. This campaign is a way to support not only breast cancer but all cancers in general. According to the Canadian Cancer Society, cancer is the leading cause of death in Canada and is responsible for 30% of all deaths. Paramedics wish to show their respect to those afflicted and support researchers to end cancer as in 2014 alone, 191,300 new cases of cancer will occur and 76,600 will die as a result.

The TPA wishes to acknowledge that Toronto Emergency Medical Services will be changing their organizational name to the Toronto Paramedic Service. It is believed that this will allow the public to know exactly which emergency service is providing care for them and more accurately reflect the job that paramedics actually perform. This switch is in harmony with many of the other municipalities that have already changed their names.

