

NHH helping to save lives in Ontario through organ and tissue donation registration drive

Information display running April 3rd through 7th during Ontario's BeADonor Month

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY – Wednesday, March 29, 2017 – Staff, visitors and volunteers will be invited next week to participate in NHH's Trillium Gift of Life Network's (TGLN) organ and tissue donation registration drive with a simple ask: *check your registration status*.

The week-long campaign will feature an interactive information display and take-away material, continuing the hospital's ongoing efforts to raise awareness inside and outside the organization around the importance of organ and tissue donation and, specifically, the steps Ontarians need to take to be sure they are properly registered.

Every three days, someone in Ontario dies waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant. This situation exists despite the fact that we have the cure, the knowledge and the tools to save them. We simply do not have enough organ donors.

One donor can save up to eight lives and enhance another 75 more through tissue donation. Organ donation in Ontario has tremendous support, but there is a lack of follow-through on intent. Approximately 80 per cent of Ontarians say that giving consent for organ and tissue donation in advance is very important to them, yet only about 31 per cent have properly registered.

Happening across the province, TGLN's 2017 BeADonor month initiative is designed to address this disconnect between intention and action.

"As many as 1.8 million Ontarians mistakenly believe they are registered organ and tissue donors," says Ronnie Gavsie, President and CEO of Trillium Gift of Life Network. "This BeADonor month we are encouraging all Ontarians to check if they are registered at www.BeADonor.ca. With over 1,500 people on the waitlist today, we can give them hope by ensuring our wishes are registered."

"We're very pleased to be a small part in building awareness around the importance of organ and tissue donation," said Kayleen McKenzie, a professional practice leader at NHH, one of the event's organizers and a champion for TGLN at NHH. "Trillium Gift of Life Network makes it easy for us to play a vital part in saving lives in Ontario and our participation in this initiative is a great way to engage everyone in a very meaningful cause."

Checking registration status is easy. Look on the back of your photo health card for the word "donor" (if it's there, you are properly registered) or check your status online at beadonor.ca, [which is also accessible on your mobile phone](#).

For those who check and find that they are not registered but want to be, the process can be completed through a few simple clicks, also at beadonor.ca. Have your health card number and birth date ready. It only takes two minutes to register!

About Northumberland Hills Hospital – Located approximately 100 kilometres east of Toronto, NHH delivers a broad range of acute, post-acute, outpatient and diagnostic services. Acute services include emergency and intensive care, medical/surgical care, obstetrical care and palliative care. Post-acute specialty services (PASS) include restorative care and rehabilitation.



Mental health care, chemotherapy, dialysis and 16 other ambulatory care clinics are offered on an outpatient basis through partnerships with regional centres and nearby specialists. NHH offers a full range of diagnostic services, including magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), computed tomography (CT) and mammography. The hospital serves the catchment area of west Northumberland County. A mixed urban and rural population of approximately 60,000 residents, west Northumberland comprises the Town of Cobourg, the Municipality of Port Hope and the townships of Hamilton, Cramahe and Alnwick/Haldimand. NHH employs approximately 600 people and relies on the additional support provided by physicians and volunteers. NHH is an active member of the Central East Local Health Integration Network. For more information, please visit www.nhh.ca or follow us on Twitter [@NorHillsHosp](https://twitter.com/NorHillsHosp).

About Trillium Gift of Life Network - Trillium Gift of Life Network is a not-for-profit agency of the Government of Ontario and is 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.

Media Contacts: Jennifer Gillard, jgillard@nhh.ca or 905-377-7757 OR Jennifer Long, jlong@giftoflife.on.ca or 416-619-2327

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