



Human Organ and Tissue Donation Ribbon – September 2014 Conference in Sydney Nova Scotia

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2015 Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Week

National Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness week runs from April 19th to 25th this year. As in the past few years the Nova Scotia Legislature will be lit green to promote awareness. In Nova Scotia about 140 people are waiting for an organ transplant, and about 120 of these waiting for a kidney. Thousands of tissues are used annually in Nova Scotia hospitals for orthopedics, neurosurgery and restoration of sight. Many people support organ donation with over 480,000 people registered with the MSI Organ Donor

Registry in this province. While many are registered far fewer will actually have the opportunity to become a donor. Educated and enabled health care professionals, effective screening, timely referral to the donation programs, and supportive families all contribute to successful outcomes for organ and tissue donation. Take the time to think about this today, and register to be a donor. To learn more about donation and to access the MSI donor registration form visit the Legacy of Life website at www.legacyoflife.ns.ca.

Corinne Corning, LoL Program Manager

Legacy of Life (LoL) is undergoing changes in the near future. At the end of May I will be retiring from my role as the program's manager since 2006. Working with the organ and tissue donation community over the past 10 years has provided me with some of the most rewarding experiences of my career, and I will truly miss the stakeholders and friendships that I have been fortunate to have gained over the past nine years.

With health system transformation under way, from June to Dec 2015 Marina Hamilton, Manager of the NS Provincial Blood Coordinating Program (NSPBCP) has agreed to assume the role of interim program manager. Janet Evans, Donation Resource Nurse in Cape Breton, will be the LoL staff lead for several key working groups including the HOTDA Team (co-chaired with Harold Taylor), and the Donation Resource Nurses, as well as the Donation Physician Pilot Project (co-chaired with Dr. Stephen Beed). Administrative support will be provided through the NSPBLC.

Working with the provincial advisory council, the senior leadership team that includes the Advisory Council Chair, Clinical Advisor, Program Manager and Director, Acute and Tertiary Care will continue to identify opportunities to advance the LoL mandate.



Regional Tissue Bank Staff Left to right: Front row: Theresa MacLellan, Charline Covin, Lauren Harrie, Amy Donnelly, Salah Hussini, Middle row: Les Zandie, Christian Collins, Nachia Greene, Meg Alders, Claudia Baldasso, Harold Taylor, Heather Robbins, Mark MacDonald, Mark Gentile, Back row: Cynthia Johnston, Chris Sproul, Arlette Langille, Duncan Cody, Nathan Hawley, Missing: Catherine Hackett, Essam Ibrahim, Jordan Rombaut, Jill Wilson

The Regional Tissue Bank is one of the largest comprehensive tissue banks in Canada. The team consists of Specialists, Assistants, Aides, Customer Service, IT Systems Analyst, Quality, Processing and Clinical Leaders along with Admin Support all playing a vital role in providing optimal tissue for transplant to improve patient outcomes. They are collectively responsible for producing some of the highest quality allografts for transplant in Canada, distributing approximately 3,000 allografts annually. This team also provides direct support to Organ Donation and the Bone Marrow Transplant programs.

The team possesses highly proficient technical skills from donor screening/suitability to the surgical recovery of tissue and processing of specific allografts for transplant; they have tremendous compassion, empathy and respect for both the donor and the family in honoring the gift. They work very closely with donor families throughout the process including follow up post donation, often developing long term connections as families become champions for organ and tissue donation.

Team members play a very active role in promoting and educating members of health care teams across the province on the importance of tissue donation and the impact it has on patient outcomes. They spend many hours involved in other activities either directly or behind the scenes in organizing conferences or participating directly in recognition and awareness celebrations. ■

INNOVATIVE IDEAS

At recent meetings of the Donation Physician Pilot Project team there was discussion about the best ways to target Physicians with information on organ and tissue donation. The development of an APP highlighting the clinical trigger for organ donation, and the absolute

contraindications for tissue donation, was felt to be a great way to help educate Physicians about the new legislation. The team is actively engaged in looking at ways to develop and implement an APP – stay tuned!

Professional EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

Government is planning to proclaim the Human Organ and Tissue Donation Act by this summer.

Education sessions will be made available to front-line staff, including access to an on-line learning module. The Donation Programs based in Halifax and the Donation Resource Nurses in Nova Scotia will be available to assist with the needed education and to support the roll out of the new law.

The on-line learning module is available at elearning.nshealth.ca. This module takes only 30 minutes to complete, and outlines how to identify, screen, refer and document organ and tissue donation opportunities.

Health professionals have a responsibility to ensure that the donation wishes of the public are honored whenever possible. Learn today!

Around THE PROVINCE



Offer Donation: Every Time, at Every Opportunity, to Every Potential Donor and Family

was the headline of an event that took place on Thursday, Sept. 25, 2014 at the Grand Lake Road Fire Hall in Sydney. Over 130 health professionals from fields of medicine, nursing, spiritual care, social work, respiratory and more were among the participants. “This event was a great platform for healthcare providers to learn more about organ and tissue donation, with a variety of speakers on aspects of donation from both clinical and personal perspectives,” says Janet Evans, Organ and Tissue Donation Resource Nurse. Topics included: tissue banking, the frontline experience, the approach out of hospital, allograft use, and testimonials from a tissue recipient, and a lung recipient, and their families.

Peggy Murray, a volunteer with the Legacy of Life Program in Amherst helped to set up a window display to promote organ and tissue donation awareness.

WORKING GROUP UPDATES

The Legacy of Life (LoL) Donor Family Support Working Group (DFWG) has been in place since 2006. In 2009 a Recommendations Report on how to support donor families was accepted by the LoL Advisory Council. Since then the DFWG has advised the program on various aspects of the recommendations. The group has provided important insight into a donor family experience survey that is sent to all organ donor families, the new impending legislation, donor family and recipient interaction, donor family recognition and the living organ donor reimbursement policy. The group recently prioritized the recommendations in preparation for the next round of program strategic planning expected to take place in 2015.

The Human Organ and Tissue Donation Act (HOTDA) Team has been meeting for over a year to assist with the development of tools and materials to support the roll out of the new legislation. With representatives from the organ and tissue donation stakeholders, the members were in a good position to help to identify content and key points related to policy and professional education development and planning. One provincial policy was a goal and members provided feedback on numerous drafts. An on-line learning module was created and will be offered across the province along with support materials such as posters, PowerPoint presentation, and toolkits for managers and front-line staff. For more information on opportunities for health professional education contact one of the donation resource nurses listed on the last page of this newsletter, or visit www.legacyoflife.ns.ca.

We would like to thank a long standing supporter of Legacy of Life for her contributions to the program since 2006. Dawnelda Murray is the former Health Services Manager of 5.2 Med-Surg, ICU and Organ Donor Coordinators. Dawnelda has provided wise advice and counsel over the past nine years. We wish her all the best in her new role as manager of IMCU.

We would also like to thank Pat Lee for his service and leadership as Chair of the Legacy of Life Program from 2010 to 2014. Also thanks to Cheryl Northcott for helping out as interim Chair since the fall of 2014. We are all wishing Fran Calnan, Legacy of Life's much admired administrative assistant a speedy recovery from her recent illness.



Mary Gould, lung recipient, Janet Evans, Donation Resource Nurse, Annie Denny, Mary's sister.

My journey began in May of 2005 when I was diagnosed with Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis. This disease was something my family knew very well as my mother had died from it years prior. It was with a very heavy heart I shared the news with my husband and family as we were all too familiar with the battle I faced. I knew I had to fight this incurable disease. I decided to join a research group and was started on an experimental drug to slow the disease progression.

In the summer of 2013 my disease had progressed and I was on home oxygen. Although my doctors recommended traveling to Toronto to get assessed for a lung transplant, I had delayed this due to my son getting married in August. I was determined to be there for him and agreed to go after the wedding.

Over the summer my health deteriorated and I was struggling to breath and was growing weaker by the day. On September 29 my husband, granddaughter and my sister Annie Denny relocated with me to Toronto for what was to be an unknown amount of time. It was incredibly difficult to leave our families and life behind not knowing when we would be back or if I would survive to come home again. I am eternally grateful for their love and support as without them I could not have stayed. My sister Annie was my rock, my cheerleader and my advocate.

On February 9th, 2014, I received the most amazing phone call. The gift of life was being given to me. After three months I was able to come home to my life and family. Now fourteen months later I am alive and eternally grateful for every breath my donor had given me. I am determined to live my life and honor the legacy of my donor and their family. ■

DID YOU KNOW?

April 19th to 26th, 2015, is Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Week in Canada. Look for the Nova Scotia legislature to be lit green in support of organ and tissue donation!

Transplant Atlantic 2015 will be held on November 10, 2015, at the Lord Nelson Hotel. The theme is "Delivering Quality Care". Please "Save the Date" for this very important event!

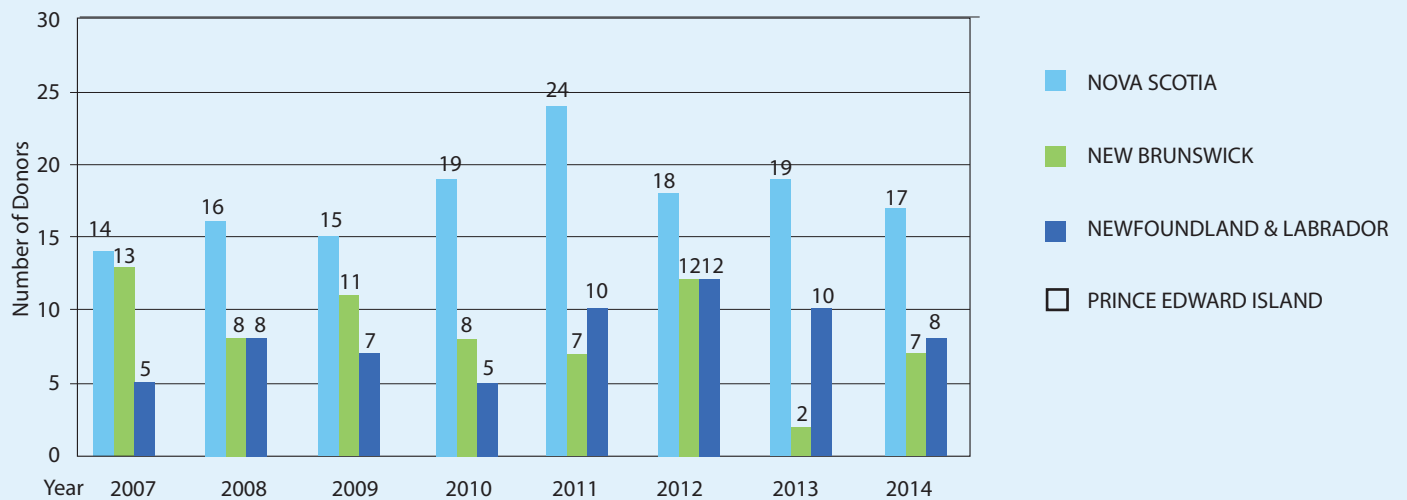
Public event – Talk by transplant surgeon Dr. Jean Legare at Holy Family Parish Hall, 63 Church St, Amherst on Monday, April 13th from 6 to 8 pm.

Multi-Organ Transplant Program Stats

Organs Transplanted for Nova Scotians between 2006 and 2014

NS Organ Transplant	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Kidney Deceased Donor	27	25	24	21	29	30	42	26	19
Kidney Live Donor	17	11	20	15	16	10	12	12	7
Kidney Paired Exchange	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	3	0
Kidney Deceased Pediatric	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	0	1
Kidney Pediatric Live	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	2	1
Kidney-Pancreas	1	2	2	1	1	1	2	0	0
Liver	18	14	18	20	10	15	12	13	9
Heart	5	3	3	6	0	3	5	6	6
Total NS Transplants	70	57	69	65	58	62	77	62	43

Atlantic Deceased Organ Donors 2007-2014



Nova Scotia's Organ and Tissue Donor Registry

Medavie Blue Cross has been administering health insurance programs on behalf of the Nova Scotia government since their inception in 1969. In 1995, Medavie assumed responsibility for the organ and tissue donor registry. At that time, the NS government decided to request individuals to consider becoming organ and tissue donors when applying for or renewing their NS health card. As a result of this decision, Nova Scotia became the first province in Canada to establish a province wide donor registry. The registry has grown steadily over the past twenty years with the number of donors reaching 485,000 as of March 2015. Residents choosing to become donors have the option of specifying all organs and tissues or selecting specific

organs and tissues, when completing the organ and tissue donor form received with the health card application/renewal package. Consent to organ and tissue donation is voluntary and is not required to obtain a NS health card. The NS health card that residents receive in the mail identifies the individual's donor choice. If the decision is to donate all organs and tissues, the indicator "DONOR 1" appears on the health card. If the individual consents to donate specific organs and tissues only,

"DONOR 2" appears on the health card. The details of donor choices are maintained in a secure electronic database. Organ donor status can be changed at any time by contacting the MSI Registration and Enquiry Department at 1-800-563-8880 (toll free in Nova Scotia only) or 902-496-7008, email: msi@medavie.ca; fax: 902-481-3160; mail: Nova Scotia MSI, P.O. Box 500, Halifax, NS, B3J 2S1; or office: 230 Brownlow Ave, Dartmouth, NS.

Hours of operation are Monday - Friday, 8am to 5pm. ■



ORGAN AND TISSUE CONTACTS



www.legacyoflife.ns.ca

Colchester, East Hants Cumberland and Pictou

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Cape Breton, Guysborough and Antigonish

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Janet Evans, Sydney
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Office: 902-567-7031
e: janet.evans@nshealth.ca

Halifax, Eastern Shore and West Hants

Multi-Organ Transplant Program (MOTP)
Phone: 902-473-6193

Critical Care Organ Donation
Phone: 902-473-5523
Toll-free: 1-877-841-3929

Regional Tissue Bank
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Toll-free: 1-800-314-6515