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National Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Week April 17-23, 2016

There are many national and provincial activities being held to bring awareness to tissue and organ donation during National Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Week April 17-23, 2016.

The #48in48 campaign is a national registration drive that is occurring in partnership with Global TV using the campaign tag line and hashtag #48in48. It is similar to a telethon but rather than money, people are asked to register their decision to donate organs and tissues.

The drive focuses on directing people to the website LiveOn.ca where they will find a map of Canada. When they select their province they will be directed to a site that informs them how to register their

decision. The goal is for 48,000 Canadians to register their decision to donate between **April 18 – 20, 2016.**

52% of Nova Scotians have registered their decision to donate however there are over 4,000 Canadians are on the waiting list for organ transplants and, sadly, hundreds die every year waiting.

Remember one organ donor can improve or save the life of up to 8 patients and a single tissue donor can help improve or enhance the lives of as many as 75 patients.

Let's all show our support and give hope to those waiting to Live On. During April 18 – 20, 2016, *Give the Gift of Life*, go to www.liveon.ca and register to be a donor!

PARTNER UPDATES

This year Transplant Atlantic 2016 will be held on November 4, 2016 at the Lord Nelson Hotel. The theme is *"Reflections and Future Direction"*. Registration is free and open to all government and industry health care professionals.

Mark your calendars as this year's conference is shaping up to have a great line up of speakers. Also a Public Forum will be held on November 3, 2016 at 6:30 pm at the Lord Nelson.

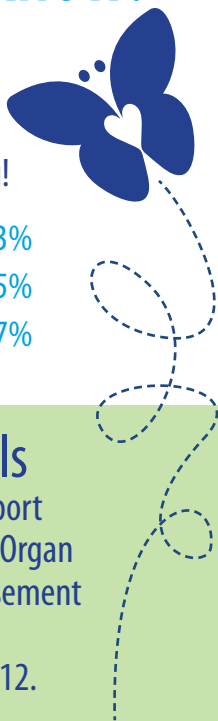
For more information contact the Multi-Organ Transplant Program (MOTP) Office 902-473-6193 or go to its website at www.motp.atlantic.ca

DID YOU KNOW?

Nova Scotia's organ and tissue donor registration rates are increasing!

April 2015	51.3%
October 2015	51.5%
March 2016	51.7%

29 individuals have obtained support through the Living Organ Donation Reimbursement Fund since it was implemented in 2012.



GETTING TO KNOW YOU

At the age of 12 the conversation of organ and tissue donation became a large portion of my family's daily conversations. It was at this age I had a family member who was born with a liver condition and within days of his birth it was evident he needed a liver transplant. This was new conversation that spanned many levels of the family tree. We watched during the first year of his life his medical condition deteriorate, and the conversation of what will happen if he does not get the opportunity for a transplant.

They were big conversations and scary as well for a 12 year old, and little did I know at that time that they would greatly influence my life and career as a nurse. Today he is 24 and has proudly taken care of his gift of life. This family event was certainly the moment I not only became aware of organ and tissue donation and became a donor, but it was also the moment that influenced my volunteering as an adult.

My goal is to help others understand the amazing process and opportunity of organ and tissue donation. I currently assist with educating my colleges as a co-facilitator

in the Meaningful Donations Workshop and participate on the Cape Breton Organ and Tissue Donation Team in my hospital. I have also used my own life experience as an inner strength when speaking to grieving families and approaching them for donation.

Michelle Robinson RN, Clinical Nurse Lead 4D, Cape Breton Regional Hospital



L to R: Michelle Robinson and Jeannie MacIsaac, RN

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

Cape Breton Conference – April 20, 2016

"Offer Donation: Every Time, at Every Opportunity, to Every Potential Donor and Family" has been the focus of the annual day-long conferences held in Sydney for the past six years and hosted by the former Cape Breton District Health Authority. This year's conference, being held on April 20, 2016, focuses on educating frontline and auxiliary health care staff on all aspects of organ and tissue donation both clinical and personal. Over the past six years several hundred staff have participated in the event and the previous conference evaluations were overwhelmingly positive.

Topics this year include: new advances in cornea retrieval, end of life conversations and the emergency department experience, the approach for donation and our aboriginal families, a family's experience with Donation after Cardiac Death donation, 2016 accreditation standards in donation, a kidney transplant recipient, and Canadian Blood Services and what is on the National horizon. Hearing very personal stories from organ and tissue donor families as well as recipients themselves share the importance of donation from the perspectives of those who gave and those who received. Feedback from the participants in the past stressed the importance of these presentations and how it shaped their practice in their clinical care areas.

Janet Evans,
Cape Breton Organ and Tissue Donation Resource Nurse

DONOR FAMILY RECOGNITION



L to R: Yannick Coutreau, the Honourable Leo Glavine, Dana Morse

David Morse Memorial Tournament at the Credit Union Centre

We are fortunate every year to have a hockey tournament in Kingston, Nova Scotia sponsored by the Western Valley Spartan Pee-Wee AA team in memory of my late husband David Morse. Prior to David's untimely death in a ski accident in 2012, he was an active community member, manager of the local Credit Union, on the arena board, manager of the Pee-Wee AAA Spartans hockey team and invaluable as a husband, father, brother, son and friend to many. The third annual memorial tournament took place in November 2015. Every year the pee wee level teams come to David's home town to play and honor his memory. As a family we take this opportunity to provide the players and parents with a little education and gift from us from Donate Life. Kelley Green from the New England Organ Bank gifted us dozens of donate life wrist bands after David's death in 2012 and we have continued this gift every year to the players during this tournament ensuring they understand David's death was, although tragic, full of honor and selflessness as a tissue donor. We are privileged every year to speak

at this tournament in his memory and feel a responsibility to make sure people understand we asked for him to be a tissue donor in Maine and wanted to make sure his life was honored and his decisions in life to be a donor were honored. Every year one of his teachers, The Honourable Leo A. Glavine comes to honor both his memory and his donation. Leo has not only fond memories of David growing up as a student, he had worked with him on community projects and he has a passion for organ and tissue donation. He never turns down the request to stand beside me as we talk about David and his Legacy of Life.

By Dana, Keighan and Rhylan Morse



Keighan and David Morse

AROUND THE PROVINCE

The Maritime Museum of the Atlantic hosted a Teddy Bears AHOY! Exhibit, for the first time since 2002, with thousands of teddy bears taking part and Hero, the Legacy of Life bear, was there. Hero is given to the children of family members that have become an organ or tissue donor. Every time they hug their bear, they will remember how their mother, father, sibling or other family member so selflessly gave the gift so that a complete stranger could have a second chance at life. Their loved one continues to be a HERO in death as they were in life. ■



Toronto to host the next Canadian Transplant Games



CANADIAN
TRANSPLANT GAMES
JEUX CANADIENS
DES GREFFÉS
Toronto + Ontario
August / Août 8 - 13 2016

The 8th National Transplant Games will be held August 8 – 13, 2016 in Toronto Ontario, hosted by the Canadian Transplant Association.

Since 2000, the Canadian Transplant Games have been a showcase for transplant recipients from across the country to enjoy the competition and camaraderie while celebrating a second chance at life. These national games are Canada's largest organ & tissue donation awareness event. The purpose of the games is to:

- Increase organ and tissue donation in Canada and beyond,
- Demonstrate the active and healthy lifestyle that may be achieved following transplantation,
- Promote the success of organ donation and transplantation,

- Offer hope to the thousands of Canadians on transplant wait lists,
- Provide an opportunity to thank donors and donor families for their precious gift of life,
- Raise awareness and educate, and encourage the public to consider organ donation,
- Create a Games environment that is built on the contributions, skills and collaboration of community volunteers, corporate sponsors and all levels of government, and
- Leave a legacy of volunteerism, community spirit and organizational development that will have a lasting value to all involved.

The Canadian Transplant Games are held every two years and are a family

oriented event. They are competitive but inclusive of all levels of abilities for organ transplant recipients aged 5 – 80+ years. Entry is open to recipients of life supporting allografts and hematopoietic cell transplants from other individuals or species which require, or have required, the use of immunosuppressive drug therapies. (Organs transplanted include kidney, heart, liver, lungs, and bone marrow).

The games include many types of sports: Bowling, Lawn Bowling, Badminton, Table Tennis, Tennis, Swimming, Golf, Cycling, Road Race (5km), Race Walk, Track and Field... and more! Click here for the event registration form <http://organ-donation-orks.org/files/4114/5316/2519/CTG2016Events.pdf>

ORGAN AND TISSUE CONTACTS



www.legacyoflife.ns.ca

Northern Zone Colchester, East Hants Cumberland and Pictou

Sue Boiduk, Amherst
Office Phone: 902-667-5400 ext. 6377
e: susan.boiduk@nshealth.ca

Cathy Timmons, New Glasgow
Voicemail: 902- 752-7600 ext. 2895
e: catherine.timmons@nshealth.ca

Western Zone Annapolis Valley, South Shore and South West

Robin Gates, Kentville
Cell: 902-698.6219
e: robin.gates@nshealth.ca

Eastern Zone Cape Breton, Guysborough and Antigonish

Nicole Wournell, Antigonish
Office: 902-867-4500 ext. 4258
Cell: 902- 870-5443
e: Nicole.wournell@nshealth.ca

Janet Evans, Sydney
Cell: 902-574-2912
Office: 902-567-7031
e: janet.evans@nshealth.ca

Central Zone 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
Phone: 902-473-4171
Toll-free: 1-800-314-6515