



Media Release
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Organ donation saves lives. Register. Tell someone.

MONTREAL – To mark National Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Week, April 23-29, The Kidney Foundation of Canada urges Canadians to take two important steps: Take action to register as a donor, and tell your loved ones about your decision.

“By encouraging discussion, we hope that families will honour one another’s wishes when it comes to a decision about organ and tissue donation,” said Elizabeth Myles, National Executive Director of The Kidney Foundation of Canada.

1 in 10 Canadians have kidney disease and millions more are at risk. Kidney failure can happen to anyone at any time and there is no cure. Patients must endure a strict regimen of dialysis treatments or receive a transplant to survive. Transplant is the preferred treatment option as provides improved health and survival, as well as a dramatically improving quality of life.

Approximately 4,600 Canadians are on the transplant waiting list, and 76% are waiting for a kidney. The median wait time for a deceased donor transplant is four years. Recent statistics show there were 651 deceased donors and 564 living organ donors in 2015.

“Although it may be a difficult topic to broach, having discussion with family or friends about registration is critical step,” said Ms Myles. “An understanding of everyone’s decisions ensures that you can respect their wishes. During National Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Week, there will be events across the country creating public awareness. Discussion about these events is a great way to spark a broader discussion about decision making.”

One organ donor can potentially save eight lives. Registering as an organ donor is a fairly simple process which can be undertaken through provincial online registries or during a health card or driver’s license application process in most provinces.

Encourage others to join the conversation this week by posting messages tagged with #NOTDAW on your social media feeds.

To find out more, visit www.kidney.ca/beadonor.

The Kidney Foundation of Canada is the national volunteer organization committed to reducing the burden of kidney disease through funding and stimulating innovative research; providing education and support; promoting access to high quality healthcare; and increasing public awareness and commitment to advancing kidney health and organ donation.

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