

## **Pembroke Regional Hospital Encourages Residents To Consider Organ And Tissue Donation As A Gift For Others In Need**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 26, 2017**

**PEMBROKE – As part of National Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness week (April 23 -29, 2017), the Pembroke Regional Hospital is encouraging area residents to register their consent for donation.**

**“Our hospital and our staff are very proud supporters of organ and tissue donation,” said Francois Lemaire, Vice-President of Patient Services – Acute Care, and Chief Nursing Executive, as well as the local Executive Lead for Trillium Gift of Life.**

**In addition, the hospital has received ongoing recognition by the Trillium Gift of Life Network (TGLN) for consistently achieving a 100 per cent notification rate for potential organ and/or tissue donors.**

**“The Pembroke Regional Hospital recognizes the potential and therapeutic value to recipients and bereaved families who give consent to organ and tissue donation as well as its place as an integral part of quality end-of-life care,” Mr. Lemaire said.**

**Throughout the month of April, PRH has been sharing information about TGLN and encouraging staff and visitors to consider organ and tissue donation as part of their BeADonor Month activities.**

**According to TGLN, someone in Ontario dies every three days while waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant. Despite the fact there’s a cure, the knowledge and the tools to save them, there simply aren’t enough organ donors.**

**In Pembroke and Petawawa alone, there are currently seven people waiting for lifesaving transplants.**

**In those same communities, there are 9,980 registered donors out of a possible 31,040 individuals who are Ontario health card holders.**

**Research suggests that as many as 15 per cent of Ontarians mistakenly believe they are registered when, in fact, they are not.**

**Mr. Lemaire said that some of these Ontarians may have signed a paper donor card years ago and are not aware that donor cards are now obsolete. Ontario’s BeADonor registry holds consent information in the health card database, so consent information can be shared with a potential donor’s family if necessary.**

**Checking registration status is easy. Look on the back of your photo health card for the word “donor” or check it online at [beadonor.ca](http://beadonor.ca).**

**“When you think that one single organ donor can save up to eight lives and enhance another 75 more through tissue donation, it’s a gift worth giving,” said Mr. Lemaire.**

**TGLN is a not-for-profit agency of the Ontario government 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.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**

**Carolyn Levesque, Public Affairs and Communications Coordinator  
Pembroke Regional Hospital  
(613) 732-3675, ext. 6165 / [carolyn.levesque@prh.email](mailto:carolyn.levesque@prh.email)**

**DID YOU KNOW...MYTHS AND FACTS ABOUT ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION**

***Myth: I am too old, no one would want my organs or tissues.***

**Fact: Age alone does not disqualify someone from becoming a donor. There is always potential to be a donor; age should not prevent someone from registering.**

***Myth: I cannot be a donor because I have a serious medical condition.***

**Fact: All potential donors are assessed at time of death for medical suitability, which includes a review of their health history as well as serological testing. It is best not to rule yourself out because there is always potential to save or enhance the lives of others through organ and tissue donation.**

***Myth: Organ donation will delay and impact my funeral plans.***

**Fact: Organ and tissue donation will not delay or interfere with funeral plans. Medical suitability testing and a recovery surgery typically take place within 24 to 36 hours of someone’s passing. After donation, the family can carry out funeral arrangements as planned, including an open casket funeral, burial, cremation and so on.**

***Myth: I cannot donate blood, so I cannot be an organ donor.***

**Fact: The regulations for blood donation are different for organ and tissue donation. Even if you are not able to donate blood, you can still become and organ and tissue donor.**