

## ***Backgrounder: Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation***

### **Why is it important to donate organs and tissue?**

On any given day, thousands of patients are waiting for critical organ transplants across Canada. Sadly, hundreds die each year waiting. One person donating their vital organs and tissue can save the lives of as many as eight people – and make a difference in the lives of many more.

### **What should I do if I want to donate?**

The most important thing to do is to let your family know. You can also place an organ donor sticker on your Saskatchewan health card and sign an organ donor card.

### **Why does my family need to know?**

Your next-of kin must sign a written consent form before organ or tissue donation can occur.

### **How old do you have to be to donate?**

Anyone of any age can be an organ donor, as long as their family consents.

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### **Saskatchewan Facts**

#### **About 180 Saskatchewan people are currently waiting for a transplant:**

- ❖ About 95 Saskatchewan people are waiting for a kidney transplant.
- ❖ About 75 patients are waiting for a cornea transplant.
- ❖ Eleven people are waiting for a lung transplant.
- ❖ Four are waiting for a liver transplant.

#### **More than 600 transplant recipients are currently living in Saskatchewan:**

- ❖ 450 kidney transplant recipients
- ❖ 110 liver transplant recipients
- ❖ 30 lung transplant recipients
- ❖ 29 heart transplant recipients

The Saskatchewan Transplant Program (STP) has been in place since 1989. It is responsible for organ and tissue donation as well as transplantation services. The STP assists patients who need to go out-of-province for transplants, helps prepare patients for transplants, and provides regular follow up after surgery.

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**To find out more about organ and tissue donation, visit:**

**[www.isanorgandonor.com](http://www.isanorgandonor.com)**