



**For immediate release**

**92% OF QUEBECERS SUPPORT ORGAN DONATION**

**TRANSPLANT QUÉBEC WANTS TO DO MORE TO  
ENCOURAGE CITIZENS TO REGISTER AS DONORS!**

**Montréal, February 19, 2019** – According to a Web survey on perceptions and knowledge about organ donation, conducted by Léger\* in October 2018 on behalf of Transplant Québec, 9 in 10 Quebecers (92%) support organ donation. The survey showed that 70% of respondents would be willing to donate their organs, while 54% said they had already taken concrete steps to make their decision known. These included signing the consent sticker on the back of their health insurance card (88%) and discussing organ donation with their loved ones (69%). For Transplant Québec, the survey of 1,515 Quebecers from across the province is a way of gauging public perceptions and knowledge about organ donation. The results of the survey highlight the ongoing importance of demystifying organ donation and continuing to encourage Quebecers to become donors.

“Transplant Québec and its partners are working to make this information available to as many citizens as possible. Next spring, we will go one step further by launching a Québec-wide communications campaign to raise awareness about organ donation and encourage citizens to inform their loved ones of their intentions. The campaign also aims to increase the number of Quebecers registered as an organ or tissue donor with the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec (RAMQ) or the Chambre des notaires du Québec. Organ donation saves lives and we want all citizens to get involved in the cause and take action now,” said Mr. Louis Beaulieu, Chief Executive Officer of Transplant Québec.

**Highlights from the 2018 Web survey**

- Nearly all respondents (94%) believed that making their wishes known was a way of saving lives after death. It also served as a reminder that they (or one of their loved ones) might need a transplant one day (92%) and gave many of them (88%) a sense of pride.
- More than 8 in 10 respondents (85%) correctly stated that there are too few organs to meet demand.
- Nearly 8 in 10 Quebecers (77%) would be willing to donate their organs after death and 71% said they knew how to register as donors.
- A third of those who had registered as donors hadn't discussed it with their loved ones. Of those people, 37% believed it wasn't their business, 29% refused to say why they hadn't discussed it and 11% said they didn't know how to broach the topic.

\* The Web survey collected data from 1,515 Quebecers between October 2 and 9, 2018. The data was weighted by age, sex, region, native language, education and ethnic background to reflect eligible respondents. A probability sample of the same size would yield a margin of error of  $\pm 2.5\%$ , 19 times out of 20.

### Highlights from the 2018 Web survey (cont.)

- Nearly 5 people in 10 (44%) wrongly believed that there is an age limit for organ donation, a persistent misconception.

*In fact, a growing number of organs from older donors are successfully transplanted, providing recipients with improved quality of life for years to come. The oldest organ donor, a liver donor, was 92 years old.*

- The majority of survey respondents (81%) greatly overestimated the number of people who are eligible to become donors after death.

*In reality, just over one in 100 people (1.4%) who die in hospital are potential donors. In Québec, this represents a maximum of 450 people per year if all the medical and legal criteria are met in each case. That's why it's important that each donor makes his or her intentions known.*

More information on this study can be found at [www.transplantquebec.ca](http://www.transplantquebec.ca) (French version only)

### Donor registration

- Through December 31, 2018, **more than 4 in 10 Quebecers registered their consent to organ and tissue donation** in one of the two registries. Registration is steadily increasing:
  - ✓ 3,188,901 in the RAMQ registry (YES only)
  - ✓ 1,773,084 in the Chambre des notaires du Québec registry (85% YES and 15% NO)

Transplant Québec wishes to remind citizens that signing up to one of the registries is the best way to confirm their consent. This registration remains valid over time, does not need to be renewed, and can be accessed by authorized personnel when needed.

### About Transplant Québec

Transplant Québec has a mandate from the Minister of Health and Social Services to save lives and improve the health of persons in need of a transplant by coordinating the organ donation process, ensuring the equitable allocation of organs, supporting best clinical practices through consensus-building and the mobilization of its partners, and promoting organ donation in the society at large. Transplant Québec therefore works to ensure that the greatest possible number of Quebecers waiting for an organ can benefit from a transplant in as timely a fashion as practicable.

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### Source and information :

#### Transplant Québec

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