



## NEWS RELEASE



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### **Mayor: Register as organ donor to help save lives**

Only 15 per cent of Vancouver's residents have registered on the BC Organ Donor Registry, which is lower than the provincial average of 17 per cent, according to Mayor Gregor Robertson.

"Clearly we need to do a better job reminding our citizens that the most valuable items that one can recycle are organs that save lives," said Robertson, who helped kick off the City of Vancouver Organ Donor Awareness campaign today by having a 'Recycle your Organs' tattoo air-brushed on his arm.

Close to 700 residents in the City of Vancouver, and more than 2,700 across Metro Vancouver, are recipients of a life-saving organ transplant.

"While we are happy for these people who have been given a second chance at life thanks to the generosity of organ donors, thousands more in Metro Vancouver, and 60 in the City of Vancouver alone, are currently waiting for an organ transplant," Robertson said.

Based on public opinion surveys, 80 per cent of B.C. residents said they support organ donation and intend to register their decision, yet less than one-fifth of them have done so.

"I'm alive, breathing, and here today because my donor made a heroic decision to save lives", says Britta Watts, a double-lung recipient, "Breaths come easy now, thanks to the life saving gift of organ donation."

BC Transplant, an agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority, is partnering with the City of Vancouver and local businesses in launching the Organ Donor Awareness campaign to encourage more people to register on BC's Organ Donor Registry.

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**About BC Transplant**

BC Transplant (BCT), established in 1986, is a comprehensive health care organization responsible for all aspects of organ donation and transplantation in British Columbia, including: pre-transplant assessment, organ recovery and donor matching, follow-up care at regional clinics across the province, research and clinical trials and public education.

Over the past four decades, more than 4,700 British Columbians have received a life-saving organ transplant. To register as an organ donor, visit [www.transplant.bc.ca](http://www.transplant.bc.ca) or telephone 1.800.663.6189.

<b>Organ Donor Registration Rates in Metro Vancouver</b>		
<b>City</b>	<b># of Residents Registered</b>	<b>% of population registered</b>
NORTH VANCOUVER	28,325	22%
WEST VANCOUVER	8,925	21%
DELTA	16,982	18%
LANGLEY	20,948	18%
CHILLIWACK	12,742	18%
<b>BC</b>	<b>325,000</b>	<b>17%</b>
MAPLE RIDGE	11,884	17%
PORT COQUITLAM	8,462	16%
NEW WEST	9,550	16%
<b>VANCOUVER</b>	<b>87,000</b>	<b>15%</b>
COQUITLAM	16,620	15%
ABBOTSFORD	17,842	14%
BURNABY	23,651	12%
SURREY	45,866	12%
RICHMOND	18,305	10%