



MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Record breaking year for transplants in BC

VANCOUVER – BC Transplant, an agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority, announced today that a record 262 transplants were performed in British Columbia last year — more than in any other previous year.

2007 Transplant Records

- 262 total transplants (previous record was in 2006 at 246 transplants)
- 106 living donor kidney transplants (previous record 101)
- 23 heart transplants (previous record 20)
- 12 kidney transplants at BC Children's Hospital (previous record 11)
- 6 living donor liver transplants (previous record 4)

"Wait times for organ and tissue transplants depend upon organ donation and the availability of organs for transplant," said Health Minister George Abbott. "The gift of an organ transplant is priceless as it gives someone a second chance at life, I would encourage all British Columbians to contact the BC Transplant Society to learn more about becoming an organ donor."

Contributing to this success was an increase in donations, both living and deceased. The number of deceased donors in BC rose to 38, a number not seen in the province since 2003, and the number of living donors in BC has jumped 35% over the past two years.

"This is great news for our patients; many of whom languish while waiting for an organ transplant," says Dr. Robert Levy, BC Transplant's Head of Medicine. "Not only is it important to recognize the donors, but also the critical care staff in BC, who perform such a difficult but crucial role in the organ donation process. Without their support and dedication, organ donation and transplantation would not be possible."

Eva Markvoort, a 23 year old with cystic fibrosis, received a double lung transplant nearly three months ago at Vancouver General Hospital, as one of the record-setting eleven transplants performed in a twenty-four hour period. Eva cannot believe how her life has changed since her transplant. "I can breathe!" she says. "No words can express the gratitude I feel to my donor for saving my life. Without their gift and the hard work of all the health care professionals who truly cared for me and my success, I would not be in the situation I'm in today. Last week I went cross-country skiing. I would never have imagined it possible three months ago!"

Despite the increase in organ transplants, hundreds of British Columbians are still waiting for a life-saving transplant. What are you waiting for? Register your decision about organ donation on BC's Organ Donor Registry. Based on public opinion surveys, 85% of British Columbians said they support organ donation and intend to register their decision, yet just over 16% have done so. To register visit www.transplant.bc.ca or telephone 1.800.663.6189.

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Over the past four decades, more than 4,000 British Columbians have received a life-saving organ transplant.