



MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Kamloops Sets New Record for Organ Donation

KAMLOOPS– Royal Inland Hospital broke a 16 year record for their organization with a 600 per cent increase in organ donors, providing new life to 26 people, announced Kamloops MLA Claude Richmond and Kamloops-North Thompson MLA Kevin Krueger.

“As shown over the past year, our community understands how important the gift of life is,” said Richmond. “From just one organ donor in 2006 to seven in 2007 is a significant increase but I think we can do better. I encourage more Kamloops residents to sign up as organ donors and help boost our contribution to those that need it.”

“I want to recognize the hard work of Royal Inland Hospital personnel in ensuring organ donors and their families receive the proper care, information and assistance,” said Krueger. “Through the charity of our community and dedication of the hospital staff, Kamloops is demonstrating support of organ donation and giving patients a new lease on life.”

Currently 18% of Kamloops residents have registered their decision on the Organ Donor Registry, slightly higher than the provincial average of 15%. Over the past four decades, 78 Kamloops patients have received transplants, and three people are currently waiting.

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“The large number of organs recovered last year at Royal Inland Hospital requires a great deal of logistical coordination and commitment on the part of the hospital team,” says Penny Clarke Richardson, Director of Organ Donation & Hospital Development at BC Transplant. “It is also important to recognize the team’s dedication to providing donors with the opportunity to give the gift of life, while at the same time supporting the donor’s family.”

The news could not have been better for the many patients awaiting a transplant last year, as BC Transplant, an agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority, broke a number of transplant records, including an overall total of 262 transplants in 2007, more than any previous year.

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.

Despite the increase in organ transplants, hundreds of British Columbians are still waiting for a live-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.