

## NEWS RELEASE

April 16, 2008

For Immediate Release

### **Driving the Island to save lives...traveling organ donor registration tour rolls through Duncan**

DUNCAN – Mayor Phil Kent will be joined by local transplant recipients at Duncan City Hall on Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, at 3:00 PM, as BC Transplant’s Organ Donor Registration Tour rolls through Duncan.

Chris Stringer, a liver transplant recipient, has been spearheading this initiative in cooperation with BC Transplant, an agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority. The Tour is taking place during National Organ Donor Awareness Week, and begins in Victoria, and finishes in Sechelt, on the Sunshine Coast, on April 27<sup>th</sup>. In between, the Tour will stop in Duncan, Nanaimo, Port Alberni, Courtenay, Campbell River, and Powell River.

“I am alive today because of organ donation,” says Stringer, “but hundreds of people in BC, including residents of the Cowichan Valley, are still waiting for an organ transplant. Our hope through this Tour is to raise awareness of organ donation and increase the number of people on BC’s Organ Donor Registry.”

Residents are being asked to support the Tour by registering their decision about Organ Donation. With 16% of residents currently registered, the Cowichan Valley is just average when it comes to registering. This is in contrast to some North Island communities, such as Courtenay and Comox, where 35% of the population has registered.

Hundreds in BC are currently waiting for an organ transplant. What are you waiting for? Register today at [www.transplant.bc.ca](http://www.transplant.bc.ca) or by telephone at 1.800.663.6189.

Introduced 10 years ago, BC’s one-of-a-kind Organ Donor Registry legally records an individual’s decision about organ donation. While 85% of British Columbians support organ donation, just 16% of British Columbians have taken the time to register their decision.

**Tour schedule, along with community statistics on page 2**

-30-

Over the past four decades, more than 4,000 British Columbians have received a life-saving organ transplant. Hundreds more are currently waiting for an organ transplant. What are you waiting for? Register your decision on BC’s Organ Donor Registry. Visit [www.transplant.bc.ca](http://www.transplant.bc.ca) or telephone 1.800.663.6189.

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### Organ Donor Registration Tour Schedule

Community	Date	Time	Location
Victoria	April 21	6:00AM – 10AM	Thrifty Foods (Cloverdale & Quadra)
Duncan	April 21	3:00 PM	City Hall
Nanaimo	April 22	Noon to 6:00 PM	Thrifty Foods (Longwood Station)
Port Alberni	April 23	Noon to 6:00 PM	Safeway
Courtenay	April 24	Noon to 6:00 PM	Thrifty Foods
Campbell River	April 25	Noon to 5:00 PM	Thrifty Foods
Powell River	April 26	Noon to 6:00 PM	Safeway
Sechelt	April 27	Noon to 6:00 PM	Extra Foods

### Community Statistics

Location	Residents Transplanted	Residents Waiting	Residents Registered	% of population registered
BC	2,678	312	648,331	16%
Victoria	282	15	58,748	18%
Duncan/North Cowichan	42	2	5,297	16%
Nanaimo	79	8	15,334	13%
Port Alberni	30	2	4,082	15%
Courtenay/Comox	38	1	11,807	35%
Campbell River	33	5	7,070	24%
Powell River	19		3,480	18%
Sechelt	12	2	1,912	21%

**For more information, or to arrange an interview:**

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