

NEWS RELEASE

April 21, 2008

For Immediate Release

Driving the Island to save lives...traveling organ donor registration tour rolls through Nanaimo

NANAIMO – In support of National Organ Donor Awareness Week, BC Transplant's second annual Traveling Organ Donor Registration Tour rolls through Nanaimo on Tuesday, April 22nd, from noon to 6:00 PM, at the Thrifty Foods (Longwood Station). Nanaimo MLA, Leonard Krog will join local organ transplant recipients at noon to kick-off the event.

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 began in Victoria, and finishes in Sechelt, on the Sunshine Coast, on April 27th. In between, stops are being made 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 Nanaimo, 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 just 13% of residents currently registered, Nanaimo is below 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 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

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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 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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Liver transplant recipient
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