



## MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

### Another record-setting year for organ transplants in BC

VANCOUVER – BC Transplant, an agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority, announced today that a record 266 transplants were performed in British Columbia in 2008—the third consecutive record-setting year. A record 47 liver transplants were also performed.

Contributing to this success was a historical high in the number of organs available from people who have died, and a 42% increase in the number of donors from the year previous.

“I would like to acknowledge the generous spirit of the donors and their families, who were able to provide these life-saving transplants,” said Health Services Minister George Abbott. “Wait times for organ and tissue transplants depend upon organ donation and the availability of organs for transplant. I would encourage all British Columbians to learn more about registering to become an organ donor.”

“This is great news for our patients” says Bill Barrable, Provincial Executive Director, BC Transplant. “Not only is it important to recognize the donors, but also the critical care staff in BC, and our recovery teams, who perform such a difficult but crucial role in the organ donation process. Without their support, dedication, and expertise organ donation and transplantation would not be possible.”

The past year was also one of innovation for BC Transplant, as it was the first in Canada to offer an online, legal organ donor consent system incorporating digital signature technology. This means British Columbians can now register their decision on BC’s Organ Donor Registry more efficiently using the customized donor registration form, which offers a legal and paperless online alternative to mailing in forms.

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](http://www.transplant.bc.ca) or telephone 1.800.663.6189.

**Contact:**

**Ken Donohue,  
Director, Communications  
BC Transplant**

[Ken\\_Donohue@bcts.hnet.bc.ca](mailto:Ken_Donohue@bcts.hnet.bc.ca)  
604-877-2240  
1-800-663-6189

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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 transplant 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 4,500 British Columbians have received a life-saving organ transplant.