**Top Bold Statements**

We need you in the fight to increase Canada’s transplant rates.

Canada is the only developed country without national organ donation legislation.

Canadians are dying needlessly waiting for organs.

Canadians deserve the best organ donation system possible.

**Section 1:**

**Key Policies for Transplant Success in Canada**

Several new policies introduced – and fully implemented – in many Canadian hospitals over the last few years have had a big impact on improving regional transplant rates.

Does your local hospital have these policies in place? Are these policies actually implemented and monitored or are they on paper only? You can call your hospital and find out. Your life, or the life of someone you love, could depend on it.

1. **Donation after Cardiac Death (DCD)**

Donation after cardiac death (DCD) can expand the opportunity for people who wish to be donors to donate – and increases the availability of deceased donor organs.

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1. **Hospital Donation Physicians**

Hospital Donation Physicians promote a culture of donation inside their hospital by providing educational support and sharing expertise with hospital staff. Their role is to help ensure that no family misses the opportunity to create a life-saving legacy for a loved one by choosing donation.

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1. **Mandatory Referral**

Making it mandatory for hospitals to contact the provincial organ procurement organization/program before withdrawing life support from patients can significantly increase in the number of potential organ donors.

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**Section 2:**

**International Examples of Transplant Success**

Canada is in the lower third of developed countries in terms of donation activity per million. We already have the blueprints for increasing our rates from world leaders in organ donation. How have other countries including the USA, Spain, and Great Britain, seen such significant increases in organ transplantation? Canada can learn from these successful models.

1. **The American Model**

The American transplant rate is 50% higher than Canada’s at 34 kidney transplants per million. A key part of their success is the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), which is the private, non-profit organization that manages the nation’s organ transplant system under contract with the federal government. <https://www.unos.org/>

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1. **The Spanish Model**

Spain has the highest deceased organ donation rate per million population in the world. Spain’s National Transplant Organization (ONT) is a national network of specialists that of coordinates donation, recovery, preservation, distribution, exchange, and transplantation of organs and tissues throughout the whole Spanish Health Care System.

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**Section 3:**

**Potential Solutions to Increase Canada’s Transplant Rates**

There is little argument that Canada’s transplant rates are too low, but many don’t agree on exactly what we need to do first to begin realize change.

For those Canadians waiting for an organ to survive, there is no time to wait to begin to take action to fix this problem. We must understand what we can do to begin to realize meaningful increases.

It has been proposed that a national donor registry, or presumed consent legislation could be possible solutions for our organ donation crisis, but international research evidence suggests these strategies depend on a national strategy and system-wide changes already having been made.

1. **Effective National Organ Donation Strategy Supported by Federal Legislation**

What kind of national strategy do we need?

A federal organ donation strategy, backed up by legislation will provide the transparency and accountability not currently in place by ensuring the implementation of best practices and mandatory data gathering and monitoring. A national strategy should ensure that we:

1. Make the investment necessary to ensure that donation occurs, at the point where potential donors are located (i.e. more investment for hospitals and not civil servants in offices)
2. Mandate national data collection and investigation of centers that do not perform at the expected rate, and resources to address their problems.
3. Have effective national education and advocacy for donation.
4. Have a national organization, such as OPTN/UNOS in the USA, supported by legislation to ensure effective interaction across the country.

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1. **Presumed Consent**

Presumed consent or “opt-out” has been proposed as a way to increase organ donation in Canada. A recent research review by The Canadian National Transplant Research Program (CNTRP), concluded that “evidence suggests an association between opt-out consent and deceased donation rates, [but] this does not mean that switching from opt-in to opt-out consent would necessarily lead to higher donation rates.”

<https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/5a805e_8737824728964b3b84e83381379cb740.pdf>

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1. **National Donor Registry**

In May 2016, Bill C-223 <https://openparliament.ca/bills/42-1/C-223/>

called for establishing a Canadian organ donor registry to centrally compile information on organ donors and potential transplantation recipients across the provinces and territories.

The Bill was rejected on June 15, 2016, but raised questions, once again, about what can be done to increase transplant rates in Canada.

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