

SENT BY EMAIL ON APRIL 15, 2015, TO ALL POLITICAL LEADERS IN SCARBOROUGH

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Subject: Open Letter to All Political Leaders in Scarborough

Support April BeADonor month in Ontario

Today in Ontario, there are over 1,500 people waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant. One organ donor can save up to eight lives and enhance the lives of up to 75 others through the gift of tissue.

It only takes two minutes to register at www.BeADonor.ca While organ and tissue donation has increased significantly in Ontario, one person dies waiting for a transplant every three days, because there are still not enough donors to meet the need.

In Scarborough, only 11 per cent of people have registered their consent to donate organs or tissue compared to 17% for Toronto and 27 % for Ontario. Scarborough's rate is significantly lower and as proud residents of Scarborough, the Scarborough Gift of Life Association is determined to improve Scarborough's registration rate from 11% to 13% by the end of 2015. There are 102 residents of Scarborough on the waiting list. Over the past five years, 200 people have received a lifesaving transplant. So there is a lot of work to be done in Scarborough and that is where your personal help as one of our political leaders is needed. We are doing our part and now we need you to do yours and lead by example.

Trillium Gift of Life Network, Ontario's organ and tissue donation and transplant agency, is celebrating BeADonor Month throughout the province with awareness events and registration drives. The Scarborough Gift of Life Association will be participating in registration drives at ServiceOntario in Cedarbrae Mall, Scarborough Hospital – both the Birchmount campus and the Lawrence Campus and also volunteering at Sunnybrook Hospital. Throughout the year, we host Information Desks at all community events when invited to do so. Over the past few years, we have been able to reach over 50,000 Scarborough residents with our message – but we cannot do this alone. We need the help of all political leaders, faith leaders and service groups to get involved and champion this noble, humanitarian cause.

What You Can do To Help

- Personally registering and asking your family, friends and staff to do so. Register at <https://beadonor.ca/scarboroughgiftoflife.com>
- Invite us to host an Information Desk at your community events.

- You can create your own **Personal Gift of 8 Community page** at **BeADonor.ca** with your name, picture and message to encourage people to register. You can set a target and the system automatically tracks the progress being made.
- You can create links from your website, email or Facebook page to your personal community page at **BeADonor.ca**
- Promote your support through social media: facebook, twitter, email bulletins, newsletter and your website.
- Share your pride as a registered organ donor by adding a “BeADonor like me button” to your Twitter and Facebook profiles and by taking part in the #1saves8 challenge: Share a photo of yourself with 8 others to symbolize the 8 lives you could save as an organ donor. Tag #1saves8 and challenge others to do the same.

Thanks to the following political leaders who have supported us in the past: MPP Soo Wong, MPP Bas Balkissoon, MP Rathika Sitsabaiesan, Councillor Chin Lee and Councillor Raymond Cho. We look forward to their continuing support and the support of all political leaders.

For more information: Contact Mohan Bissoondial, Coordinator, Scarborough Gift of Life Association (c) 647-769-5961 or scarboroughgiftoflife@gmail.com or www.scarboroughgiftoflife.com Scarborough Gift of Life Association is a local, community based volunteer organization working in partnership with Trillium Gift of Life Network which is a not-for-profit agency of the Government of Ontario responsible for planning, promoting, coordinating and supporting organ and tissue donation for transplantation across Ontario and improving the system so that more lives can be saved.

Yours sincerely,

Mohan Bissoondial,

Coordinator,

Scarborough Gift of Life Association