

New Legislation Will Assist Living Organ Donors

McGuinty Government Provides Job-Protected Leave For Living Organ Donors

NEWS

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Living organ donors in Ontario will soon have the benefit of job-protected leave.

Ontario has passed amendments to the Employment Standards Act, 2000 to provide unpaid job-protected leave for employees who donate certain organs to another individual. The amendments come into force upon proclamation.

The legislation builds on the \$4 million announced in 2007 to implement an Organ Donation Strategy. The strategy includes the establishment of the Program for Reimbursing Expenses of Living Organ Donors, a fund that will reimburse living organ donors for certain eligible, out-of-pocket expenses and lost income associated with their organ donation.

Living donation has many advantages such as reducing wait times and patient suffering, increased transplant success, and reduced health costs.

QUOTES

"Job-protected leave provides necessary support to caring people who want to help others. This is the right thing to do."

- Peter Fonseca, Minister of Labour

"By providing critical support to donors, the province is helping to increase the number of lives saved through organ donation."

- David Caplan, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

QUICK FACTS

- Currently, the job-protected leave applies to persons who are donating all or part of the following organs: kidney, liver, lung, pancreas and small bowel.
- Donors would have to be employed by the same employer for at least 13 weeks in order to be entitled to the leave.
- There are approximately 1,700 men, women and children waiting for an organ transplant in Ontario.
- Living organ donors comprise approximately 30 percent of total transplants.

LEARN MORE

Find out more about [Ontario's Organ Donation Strategy](#).

Does organ donation from one individual help dozens of others? Yes, it does. Find out more about how you can help make difference – visit [Trillium Gift of Life Network](#).