

Acknowledgements

Life Is a Gift: A Manitoba Grade 11 Biology Resource for Organ Donation and Transplantation is intended to provide a unique context and focus to students in achieving the learning outcomes in the Manitoba Grade 11 Biology curriculum at a time when the need for organ donor awareness is becoming an area of importance in public health. It provides an opportunity for teachers and students alike to examine in detail the issues surrounding organ donation and transplantation and make connections to the improvement of the health and well-being of the people of Manitoba.

Some topics in this document may be potentially sensitive to some students and their parents/families and/or communities. This sensitivity may be based on personal, family, religious, and/or cultural values and experiences.

The Transplant Manitoba—Gift of Life Program and Manitoba Education gratefully acknowledge the contributions of the following individuals in the development of *Life Is a Gift: A Manitoba Grade 11 Biology Resource for Organ Donation and Transplantation*.

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To: Teachers

It is with great pride that I announce the publication of *Life Is a Gift: A Manitoba Grade 11 Biology Resource for Organ Donation and Transplantation* to support the teaching and learning experiences of your students. This is an important and timely resource that serves to contextualize your teaching approaches to human biology at a time when the need for transplantable organs and donor awareness are on the increase. Through making direct connections to Manitoba biology curriculum, *Life Is a Gift* explores organ donation, transplantation and the importance of maintaining the health of critical body systems. The development of this teacher resource constitutes the fruits of a long-standing and successful collaboration between Transplant Manitoba and Manitoba Education.

As your students have reached advanced study in the sciences, perhaps considering a career in the health sciences, they are at the same time firming up their personal decision making about adopting lifestyle choices that can contribute to an active, healthy future. Though great progress is being made in areas such as early detection of organ failure and the implementation of prevention strategies, there is still an expectation that many Canadians will come to know someone who needs a new organ through transplant in order to save a life. Education in science and increased understanding of the issues surrounding donation and transplantation can be keys to appreciating more fully the impact that a single donor can have on the lives of individuals.

Manitobans often engage in inspiring acts of giving the gift of an organ to a patient, and we believe that a sound science education in this area contributes to wider understanding of the complexities of this medical field. Our partnership with Transplant Manitoba demonstrates a commitment to relevant, high-impact science education here in Manitoba. My hope is that this new resource will improve students' awareness of the particular needs in our healthcare system, invite consideration to becoming a donor, and increase their technical knowledge in applying biological science to vital human needs.

Sincerely,

Nancy Allan



In the late 1990s, Transplant Manitoba partnered with Manitoba Education to undertake development and production of its first resource kit for Senior 3 Biology teachers and students in Manitoba. *Organ and Tissue Donation: A Fact of Life* was delivered to all schools throughout the system in 2001.

Today, we are just as eager to present you with this completely revised learning resource kit, *Life Is a Gift: A Manitoba Grade 11 Biology Resource for Organ Donation and Transplantation*.

This important and timely work has happened through the dedication and hard work of one of our own Manitoba biology teachers—Tara Shepherd of John Taylor Collegiate in Winnipeg. To say Tara was a tireless worker would be an understatement given the time and commitment she made to this project. Tara also organized a contest with students at her school to help us provide a name for this valuable resource. A Grade 11 student from John Taylor—Garrett Armstrong—penned the new name for the document and was rewarded for his creative efforts with a special gift!

I would also like to acknowledge, with special thanks, science consultant John Murray from Manitoba Education for believing in the value of this work and the ongoing support required to make this project a success.

As with many organizations involved in health care, we rely on the financial support of many organizations to help us take our projects from just another great idea to a professionally finished product. In that spirit of cooperation, the printing costs of this document have been generously sponsored by Hoffmann-La Roche.

I know that you will find *Life Is a Gift* a useful resource for incorporating current issues and the science surrounding organ donation with Manitoba's Grade 11 Biology curriculum. May it be a stimulating and rewarding addition to learning and teaching.

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