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Alberta's Web-Based Organ and Tissue Donation Registry Earns National Praise

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When the number of organ and tissue donations began to decline in Alberta, the government turned to information technology to help reverse the trend.

Working with 93 different stakeholder groups, , including Service Alberta and Alberta Health Services, Alberta Health created the Alberta Organ and Tissue Donation Registry, a service that enables donors to register their desires regarding donations online.

Close to 50,000 people have already signed on to the registry, and last night the registry was named as one of the most innovative information and communications projects in Canada by the nation's ICT industry association.

The Information Technology Association of Canada (ITAC) presented Alberta Health with a coveted Ingenious Award, the industry's highest honour. It recognizes excellence in the innovative use of information technology. The registry was one of two winners in the Large Public Sector category.

Before the introduction of the web-based registry, donors could only express their intent by signing the back of their Alberta Health card. The new system ensures donors are readily identified and that proper consent is in place when required.

With support from CGI, an information technology and business process firm, the registry was implemented by Alberta Health in just six months.

Quick Facts

- A single donor can make the difference between life and death for up to eight others and improve the quality of life for up to 75 more.
- Close to 50,000 Albertans have signed on to the registry.
- The registry serves as an excellent communications and education resource on the importance of transplants.
- Information Technology Association of Canada is the voice of the ITC sector in Canada. It has been operating the Ingenious Awards since 2011.
- The Ingenious Awards Program was designed to showcase the achievements of innovative Canadian organizations using technology to build competitive enterprises and strengthen the Canadian economy.

- The Information and Communications Technology sector creates one million direct and indirect jobs and generates $155 billion in annual revenue.
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Quotes

"The Government of Alberta, through Alberta Health, has combined the advances of information technology with Canadians instinctive desire to do the right thing. The result is a world class project that transforms lives. We hope that recognizing this innovation serves as a reminder that governments and public institutions can significantly improve the quality of life for their citizens through the smart use of technology."
- *Karna Gupta, President and CEO, Information Technology Association of Canada*

"Our goal was to make it easier for people to register their consent to donate, which is intended to contribute to increasing organ and tissue donation rates in Alberta. The registry has shown its worth through the growing numbers of Albertans who have registered to help save and improve the lives of others."

- *Sherri Kashuba, Interim Managing Director, Alberta Organ and Tissue Donation Agency*

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