



# RESPONSE TO PETITION

No.

1 – 17(4)

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Petition tabled by Mr. Darryl Dolynny on March 11, 2013

Response by the Honourable Tom Beaulieu  
Minister of Health and Social Services

## **Creation of a Territorial Organ and Tissue Donor Register**

The Department of Health and Social Services supports organ and tissue donation. A national donor registry already exists, as well as a provincial registry in Alberta which the Northwest Territories participates in. Northwest Territories residents wishing to register or declare their intentions to donate organs, eyes, and tissues, can contact the Alberta Health Services Organ, Tissue, and Eye Donation program at 1-866-407-1970. The Human Organ Procurement Exchange Program, based in Alberta, funds all air and ground travel costs for potential Northwest Territories donors to travel to Alberta.

There are no plans at this time to create donor cards specific to the Northwest Territories. For Northwest Territories residents wishing to obtain a donor card, a universal donor card and information brochure for Canadians is available at [www.transplant.ca](http://www.transplant.ca). Furthermore, deleting the family's right of refusal would require amendments to the Northwest Territories *Human Tissue Act*, and there are currently no plans to change this legislation. The Department of Health and Social Services will be discussing the possibility of developing a public awareness campaign promoting organ and tissue donation in the Northwest Territories.