**Organs, Health and Kindness: Three Foundational Pillars of High-Impact School-Based Organ Donation Education Programs in Canada.**

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**Background:** Two world-class education programs in Canada give educators the tools to inform and empower students with lifesaving knowledge.

**Methods:** As the organization responsible for facilitating national collaboration, Canadian Blood Services' aim in school-based organ donation education is to identify, support and invest in the creation and dissemination of high-quality educational resources. We, along with our partners in education, agree that education is THE starting point in the donation/transplant pathway. In a world of misinformation, early fact-based learning will equip and empower children and families to make informed decisions about donation if ever faced with the question.

**Results:** After 5 years of investigation and investment, two such resources – The Orgamites Global Education Program (ages 5-11) and Chaine de Vie (ages 15-17) – are proven education programs being taught in jurisdictions in Canada. Both programs build on three foundational pillars of learning: organs, health, and kindness. Created in the province of Quebec, Chaine de Vie is a comprehensive education program for high school aged students. Developed by Lucie Dumont, a curriculum specialist and ESL educator, the program has successfully trained more than 350 teachers to facilitate 15 lesson hours that cover the full spectrum of organ and tissue donation, and the powerful impact transplant can have on individuals, families, and society. A program evaluation report published in 2024 demonstrates the value of focus on the three critical pillars [1]. Figure 1 shows that education is a critical starting point for transplant to occur. The Orgamites are a team of nine life-saving organs known as the "mighty organs" because they represent the most-donated parts of the body. Licensed by Canadian Blood Services for development and distribution across Canada, the Orgamites gives teachers a robust set of tools to teach students the three main pillars of organ donation education: mighty organs, healthy habits and the powerful impact of kindness. Presented in fun and accessible formats, the Orgamites bring lightness to the topic (Figure 2).

**Conclusions:** In Canada, organ donation education is equipping youth and their families to make well-informed personal decisions about donation. It provides them with early foundational understanding of their bodies, their health and altruism, a known critical step in creating a trusted and caring culture of donation.

**Keywords:** Organ and tissue donation education, school-based education, informed consent and decision making, youth engagement
**Clinical Trial Registry:** N/A
**Data Deposition:** N/A
**Disclosures:** Canadian Blood Services works with Canada's organ donation organizations and transplant programs to develop and improve public education for organ and tissue donation.
**Corresponding Author:** Marco Raggi
**Competing Interest:** The authors declare no competing interests.
**Ethical Approval:** Not applicable—this study did not involve human participants, their data, or biological material.
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**Figure 1. The donation-transplant pathway begins with early education.**



**Figure 2. The Orgamites**



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## Introduction

Based on three pillars of learning (organs, health and kindness), student-centered organ donation education programs in Canada are proving to be effective early interventions to shift societal attitudes and increase support for organ donation. We, along with our system partners, agree that education is **THE** starting point in the donation-transplant pathway. In a world of misinformation, early fact-based learning will successfully equip and empower children, youth and families to make informed decisions about donation if ever faced with the question.




**Fig. 1. The donation-transplant pathway begins with early education. Courtesy of Lucie Dumont, Founder Chain of Life**

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We acknowledge the infinite kindness and generosity of organ and tissue donors and their families to help save and improve the lives of others. Canadian Blood Services is honoured to work with Lucie Dumont (Chain of Life) and Roydon Turner (the Mighty Orgamites); two creators dedicated to developing and sharing world-class education resources designed to enable a trusted and caring culture of donation.

Following five years of investigation and investment, two such resources – Chaine de Vie (ages 15-17) and The Orgamites Global Education Program (ages 5-11) – are proven foundational programs being taught in jurisdictions in Canada. Both are built on the three pillars of learning: organs, health and kindness.

## Program 1 - Chain of Life | Chaine du Vie

Created in the province of Quebec, Chaine de Vie is a comprehensive education program for high school students. Developed by Lucie Dumont, a curriculum specialist and ESL educator, the program has successfully trained more than 350 teachers to facilitate 15 lesson hours that cover the full spectrum of organ and tissue donation, and the powerful impact transplant can have on individuals, families and society (Fig. 1).

A program evaluation report published in 2024 demonstrates the value of focus on these three critical pillars and its impact on students, families and communities.

**"The aim of Chaine de Vie is to encourage young people not only to be a catalyst for family discussions on organ and tissue donation, but also to take action and advocate for the adoption of healthy lifestyle habits." - Lucie Dumont, Chain du Vie**

## Program 2 - The Mighty Orgamites

The Orgamites are a team of nine life-saving organs known as the "mighty organs" because they represent the most-donated parts of the body (Fig. 2). Created by Roydon Turner (2016, UK) and licensed by Canadian Blood Services (2021) for use across Canada, the Orgamites program gives educators a robust set of tools to teach the three key pillars :mighty organs, healthy habits and the powerful impact of kindness.

"This program isn't about adding to teachers' already heavy workloads. It's about making education more inclusive and more relevant to the realities children face today. - Roydon Turner, Mighty Orgamites




Kindness isn't just about organ donation, it's about creating a culture where we care for one another, make healthier choices, and build stronger communities. Organ donation is one of the greatest acts of kindness, but without a foundation of empathy, these life-saving decisions simply don't happen.

## Conclusion

In Canada, organ donation education is successfully equipping youth and their families to make well-informed personal decisions about donation. It provides them with early foundational understanding of their bodies, their own health and well being and the life-saving power of altruism, a known critical step in creating a trusted and caring culture of donation.

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