

Record Year for Donation!

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Over the last few years the Nova Scotia Legacy of Life program has brought donation awareness to the forefront. As a result, more than half of all Nova Scotians are registered to be an Organ and Tissue Donor.

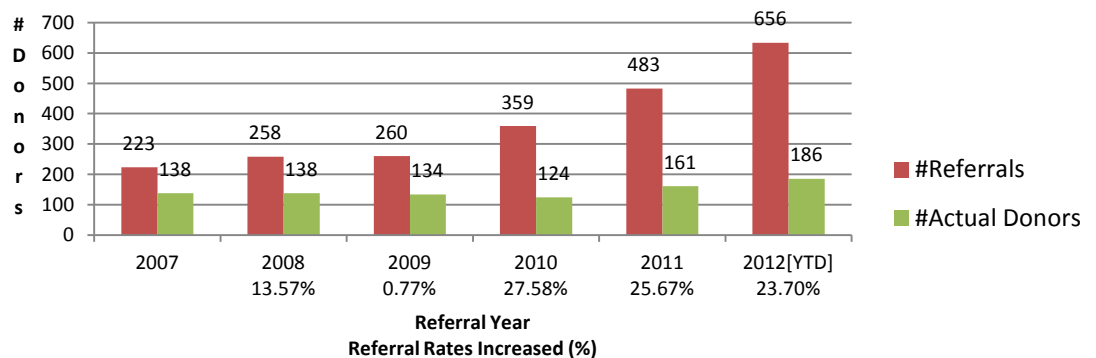
In the last 3 years the RTB has seen a steady increase in the number of referrals and the number of actual tissue donors. This year, 2012 we have seen a record breaking 656 referrals and 186 actual donations.

If not for the passionate, dedicated staff at the RTB, supporting this significant increase in donation rates would not be possible.

The real heroes of course are the donors and their family members who chose to donate during a very difficult time of loss and grieving.

*Cynthia Johnston BSC, CTBS
Quality Leader, Regional Tissue Bank*

Referrals and Actual Donors since 2007



Excellent ISO 13485 Audit Results

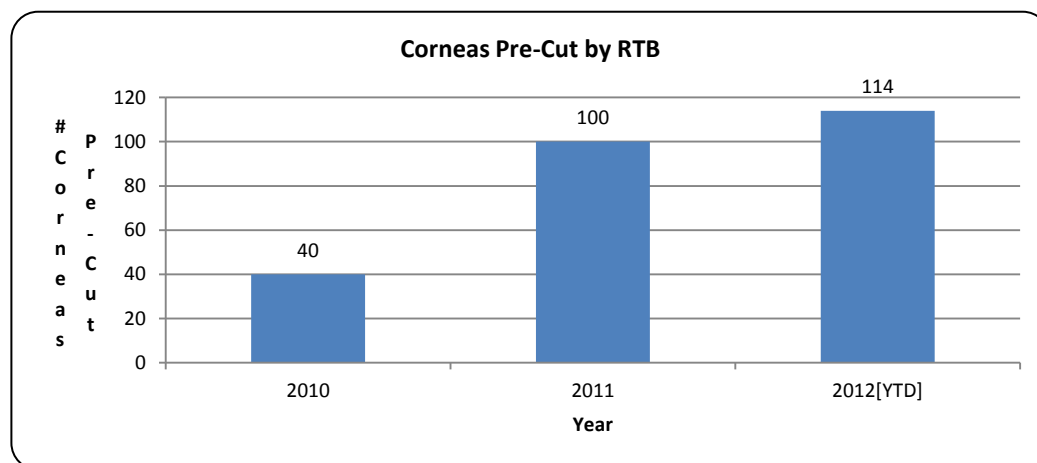
In November the RTB underwent an annual ISO audit. ISO 13485:2003 International Standard for Medical Device is required in Canada to hold a medical device Licence. The RTB has held a Medical Device licence for Heart Valves since 2004. The RTB applies the ISO standard to all tissue practices. The results were excellent with no non-conformities or areas of concern identified.

*Lois West,
Interim Health Services Manger
Regional Tissue Bank*

Pre - Cut Cornea Activity in 2012

Pre-cut cornea processing is a procedure where a functioning basement membrane of a cornea is cut with a portion of stroma. The pre-cut cornea is then preserved in special storage media and transplanted, replacing the dysfunctional portion of the patient's cornea. This procedure is called Descemet's Stripping Automated Endothelial Keratoplasty or DSAEK. Historically, the cornea was prepared in the operating room by the corneal transplant surgeon during the case. In 2009 the RTB assumed responsibility for pre-cutting corneas. Trained Tissue Bank Specialists are now preparing the corneas in a Class 100 or class 1000 clean room. The transfer of this responsibility has resulted in a significant reduction in OR time per case. This has saved approximately 74 hours in 2012 in the Operating Room.

Below indicates the number of pre-cut corneal grafts for the last 3 years.



*Ken Lotherington, BSc,
CTBS, CEBT
Tissue Bank Specialist
Regional Tissue Bank
And
Catherine Hackett, BSc,
CTBS, CEBT
Clinical Leader
Regional Tissue Bank*

Welcome to New staff

The RTB would like to formally welcome new staff members; Mark MacDonald, Cody Halliday and Duncan Cody. These gentlemen come to us from the Laboratory and Pathology Medicine Department here at the QEII in Halifax.

We congratulate one of our veteran staff, Ken Lotherington on his new role with Canadian Blood services. Although we are sad to see him go, we wish him best of luck in his future endeavours.

Happy Holidays from the Regional Tissue Bank!