

November 24, 2006

CITIZENS PANEL ON INCREASING ORGAN DONATIONS

Health and Long-Term Care Minister George Smitherman today announced the formation of a Citizens Panel on Increasing Organ Donations. The panel members are:

Dr. Ted Boadway – Panel Chair

Dr. Ted Boadway is a medical doctor who spent the first 13 years of his professional career as a family physician and the next 23 years as executive director of the health policy department with the Ontario Medical Association (OMA). Throughout his career, Dr. Boadway has been actively involved in medical politics at the local, regional, provincial, and national levels. In 2003, Dr. Boadway received the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal in recognition of his published and legislative work in tobacco control. He continues his work in health policy and in health environmental policy through his consulting work with the OMA, the Ontario government and other clients.

Dr. Boadway was a member of the steering committee and then a founding member of the board of Multiple Organ Retrieval Exchange Program (MORE) for the province of Ontario, the predecessor of The Trillium Gift of Life Network. He served as chairman of the board of MORE for three years.

Alvin Curling

Alvin F. Curling was appointed as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Canada to the Dominican Republic on August 19, 2005. Prior to this appointment, he was the Member of Provincial Parliament from 1985 to 2003, when he was also elected Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. The Honourable Alvin F. Curling has served on numerous advisory boards and committees including as Chair of the Advisory Board to the Caribana Cultural Committee, Member of the Board of Directors of the World Hunger Project, President of World Literacy of Canada, and Member of the Advisory Board to the Chinese Cultural Centre. The Government of Jamaica has honoured him with the Order of Distinction, in the rank of Commander, and most recently, the University of Technology in Jamaica awarded him an Honorary Doctorate Degree, Doctor of Letters.

Peter Desbarats

Peter Desbarats was dean of the graduate school of journalism at The University of Western Ontario from 1981 to 1997. He currently teaches in Western's journalism program conducting a graduate course in Media and Politics. He has worked as a print and television journalist for 30 years in Montreal, London (UK), Winnipeg, Toronto and Ottawa. His most recent media positions were as national affairs columnist for the Toronto Star and Ottawa bureau chief and co-anchor for Global TV. He is the author of 12 books, several plays and numerous academic and popular articles. Peter Desbarats is a member of the advisory board of the Canadian Journalism Foundation, a director of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association and an advisor to the U.S. Society of Environmental Journalists. In addition to lecturing to international audiences and being cited in the media as an authority on Canadian journalism, he has also

served in 1995-96 as one of three Commissioners on a federal inquiry (Somalia). In 1991 he was a member of the Ontario Task Force on Cardiovascular Services.

Rev. Brent Hawkes

Rev. Brent Hawkes has been the Senior Pastor at the Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto for more than 29 years and has been at the forefront of the ministry to the gay and lesbian community in Toronto. He has played a significant role in promoting the inclusion of sexual orientation in the Ontario Human Rights Code and the Canadian Human Rights Act. He has served as co-chair for the Campaign for Equal Families, member of the advisory committee of PrideVision TV, and on the Board of Directors of “EGALE” (Equality for Gays and Lesbians Everywhere). Hawkes has been honoured with the City of Toronto Award of Merit along with awards from the United Nations Toronto Association, and the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.

Gisèle Lalonde

Gisèle Lalonde has many accomplishments throughout her twenty year career as an educator and most recently in the field of politics. In addition to sitting as board chair for the Ottawa Roman Catholic Separate School Board, she held several positions and appointments in the education arena, most specifically related to francophone matters. She also served on the boards of directors of the Royal Ottawa Hospital, Montfort Hospital and Montfort Hospital Foundation. Her political career took flight when she was elected mayor of Vanier, Ontario in 1985 and later sat on the advisory board to the Minister of Municipal Affairs on the professional development of elected officials and municipal managers. Lalonde has been honoured with numerous distinctions and awards including, the Order of Canada in 2004 along with Honorary Doctorate Degree from Laurentian University and St-Paul University.

Senator Joan B. Neiman (retired)

Joan Neiman was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and obtained her B.A. from Mount Allison University. She served in the Women’s Royal Canadian Naval Service 1942-1946, retiring as lieutenant commander. She was called to the Bar of Upper Canada and practiced law in Ontario 30 years. Neiman served on the Boards of the Elizabeth Fry Society, National Council of Women, Canadian Corps of Commissionaires Ottawa and Admirals’ War Medal. She was appointed to the Senate in 1972 where she sat on many standing and special committees and was chair of the Legal & Constitutional Affairs Committee for eight years. She chaired Human Rights Committee of the Interparliamentary Union, the parliamentary equivalent of the United Nations, for eight years. She is a member of an End of Life Project initiated by the Health Law Institute of Dalhousie University and of the Ethics Committee of Orillia Soldiers’ Memorial Hospital.

For more information on the *Citizens Panel on Increasing Organ Donations* and their work, please go to www.panelonorgandonations.on.ca.

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