

Paula Kusack

Subject: FW: For the July 22 Council Agenda - Supporting Living Organ Donation by Municipal Employees

From: Pia Schindler <pia.schindler@kidney.ca>
Sent: Friday, July 12, 2024 10:55:19 AM
To: Mayor Nathan Pachal <npachal@langleycity.ca>
Subject: Supporting Living Organ Donation by Municipal Employees

Dear Mayor Nathan Pachal,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Kidney Foundation of Canada – BC & Yukon Branch to request that the City of Langley consider participating in the Kidney Foundation’s **Living Donor Circle of Excellence** program. This important initiative acknowledges public and private sector employers who support employees who are living organ donors. We would be happy to meet virtually with yourself or your staff to answer any questions you have. If you are not able to meet, we hope you will come to the booth we will have in the trade show at the Union of BC Municipalities Conference which will take place September 16 to 20 in Vancouver. For municipalities who agree to join this program, we will be hosting a public recognition ceremony on November 13th in downtown Vancouver and would love to have you in attendance.

The Living Donor Circle of Excellence program is a certification that recognizes model employers who offer to cover the lost wages of employees who donate a kidney as they recover from surgery. This will help remove a key barrier to organ donation as the potential loss of income can reduce the likelihood that an employee will chose to be an organ donor. Recognizing that there are only 15 live donors for every million Canadians it should be noted that this would likely not be a frequent occurrence at any given workplace. It is important for us to support those who willingly choose to give life. Assuming a median salary of \$60,000 per year, 80% support for four weeks of coverage is only \$4,000.

In addition to being able to help the 1 in 10 British Columbians who currently suffer from chronic kidney disease, the Circle of Excellence program provides participating organizations with formal certification and dedicated public recognition. I am also pleased to inform you that the Government of British Columbia has also recently signed up for the program, along with others like Thrive Health and the University of British Columbia.

I look forward to hearing from you, and I hope to be able to answer any questions you may have about the program or how to better support kidney donors and recipients in your local community.

Sincerely,



Pia Schindler
Executive Director
The Kidney Foundation, BC & Yukon Branch
#200 – 4940 Canada Way

Burnaby, BC V5G 4K6
604.240.9359