

### **The Short Answer:**

**Our One Life, Many Gifts Saskatchewan group of 5 volunteers (see below) has held meetings over the last 3 years amongst ourselves and with various members of both school boards, including the Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools (GSCS) Christian Ethics section heads, the council of principals of the GSCS, the Science Section Heads in the Public School System, and Superintendent Scott Gay of the GSCS. Every single group that we presented to understood the great benefits that could come from such a program (educationally and in saving lives) and pledged their support. It is fortunate that this year is a year of curriculum redesign in the province's Catholic schools and that One Life, Many Gifts (OLMG) has been approved for inclusion in the new curriculum. Although we have not communicated directly with the Ministry of Education, it is understood that this program will be reviewed by the ministry as part of the curriculum redesign.**

**OLMG has been piloted in a Saskatoon High School, with great success, judging from the letters written by students. This pilot was thanks to the enthusiasm of a dynamic principal and a popular Christian Ethics teacher.**

**It is our hope that, like the Ontario program, that the Saskatchewan One Life, Many Gifts program is able to spread by word of mouth from student to student and from teacher to teacher, so that one day OLMG is a mandatory part of the high school curriculum for all Saskatchewan High School students. We have tried to summarize what OLMG is all about in an email, but we would be delighted to have the chance to present to anyone in the committee who is interested in finding out more.**

### **Background**

One Life, Many Gifts (OLMG) is a program that Dr. Moser was involved in back in 2001 when it started in London, Ontario when he was finishing his Transplant Surgery specialty training. It started very small, as a year-long project for a group of 4 students that involved learning about organ donation and transplantation and bringing this information back to their classmates.

The students had the chance to meet with a real live heart transplant recipient, the family of a young man whose organs had been donated after his sudden death, and a transplant surgeon, and they were enthralled! The debates and discussions were particularly popular and as a visitor to the classroom on a number of occasions, he was impressed by the level of sophistication these debates took on and how well these young people understood the topics.

The program was extremely popular in that high school and word spread fast from student to student, from teacher to teacher, and from school to school. Before long, we had developed the materials into a number of well-polished modules and the program had spread to 6 London high schools within 3 years. Eventually, 8 years later, the program spread outside of London and was made a mandatory part of the high school curriculum for all Ontario high schools.

When Dr. Moser left London in 2004, the donor coordinators were encountering a number of potential organ donor situations where the family had mentioned that they knew a lot about organ donation thanks to information brought home to the dinner table by a high school aged family member. It is estimated that because of increased awareness that the program in Ontario has saved hundreds of lives. London is known for the fact that it has the highest donor rate per capita of any city in North America, more than double the rate in Saskatchewan, and One Life, Many Gifts is one important part of that Organ Donation Culture.

The modules have been polished and revised several times since Dr. Moser helped to write them over a decade ago, and they are now very easy to implement and there is no fee associated with using the materials, only the costs of photocopying.

#### One Life, Many Gifts Saskatchewan Committee of volunteers:

1. Sheila Chad, a retired high school principal with extensive connections in the Catholic and Public School systems (and several family members in education and on school boards). Sheila has a relative who received a liver transplant.
2. Phil Gleim is a retired school principal also, and is the former president of the Canadian Transplant Association Saskatchewan Branch. Phil received a heart transplant 8 years ago and actually went back to work for four years after his transplant before he retired. He is a regular medalist at the Canadian Transplant Games. The Canadian Transplant Association has been very supportive of One Life, Many Gifts and several members have expressed an interest in speaking with students (meeting with and asking questions of actual transplant patients was one of the highest rated aspects of the OLMG program).
3. Christine Spetz is a communications expert for the Saskatoon Health Region who has a passion for transplantation and donor awareness, a key member in getting the message out there effectively to school boards and students.
4. Alex Senger is a young man with a lot of energy and our closest link to high school students because he graduated just 3 years ago. His brother received a kidney transplant from his father and this was the subject of one of the Offer Hope videos produced in 2014.
5. Mike Moser is a transplant surgeon, a member of the original team that wrote the curriculum for One Life, Many Gifts when it first started in Ontario who now has an ongoing passion for getting the word out to High School students throughout Saskatchewan.

#### What we have done so far

Our group has held meetings over the last 3 years amongst ourselves and with various members of both school boards, including the Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools (GSCS) Christian Ethics section heads, the council of principals of the GSCS, the Science Section Heads in the Public School System, and Superintendent Scott Gay of the GSCS. Every single group that we presented to understood the great benefits that could come from such a program (educationally and in saving lives) and pledged their support. It is fortunate that this year is a year of

curriculum redesign (Christian Ethics Program) in the province's Catholic schools and that OLMG has been approved for inclusion in the new curriculum. Although we have not communicated directly with the Ministry of Education, it is understood that this program will be reviewed by the ministry as part of the curriculum redesign.

The program has been piloted in a Saskatoon High School, with great success, judging from the letters written by students. This pilot was thanks to yet another enthusiastic and dynamic principal and a popular Christian Ethics teacher.

#### Our vision for the future

It is our hope that, like the Ontario program, that the Saskatchewan One Life, Many Gifts program is able to spread by word of mouth from student to student and from teacher to teacher, so that one day OLMG is a mandatory part of the high school curriculum for all Saskatchewan High School students. We have tried to summarize what OLMG is all about in an email, but we would be delighted to have the chance to present to anyone in the committee who is interested in finding out more.

Sincerely,

Sheila Chad   Phil Gleim   Mike Moser   Alex Senger   Christine Spetz