



CMCC

Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College

Giving the gift of knowledge

Body Donation Program
CMCC Department of Anatomy



Giving the gift of knowledge

It is seldom that we are presented with an opportunity to perform a truly noble act, one that is solely for the benefit of our fellow human beings and celebrates the importance of life, health, and the natural connection we have with one another.

When a person donates their body to chiropractic education and research, it is a generous gift that, above all else, is a gift of knowledge. With this gift, donors make an invaluable and timeless contribution to the education of tomorrow's chiropractors by helping to expand our students' knowledge in preparation for a lifetime of health care, research and healing. The value of a body donation is immeasurable and is felt for generations – as the students of today become doctors and teachers of the future.

CMCC: A world leader

Recognized as a world leader in the chiropractic profession, the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College (CMCC) opened its doors in 1945 and remains at the forefront of chiropractic education and research. CMCC is a fully accredited, not for profit, professional educational institution supported by the chiropractic profession in Canada.

Playing a role in chiropractic education: A way to heal others

Chiropractic is one of the fastest growing professions in the country with over four million Canadians receiving chiropractic care annually. Chiropractic students complete four years of study before becoming a Doctor of Chiropractic. This follows the successful completion of three years of undergraduate university study. They are some of the brightest young minds, selected from across Canada and around the world. CMCC's curriculum incorporates small-group learning, practical application opportunities, and is aimed at preparing future chiropractors to their fullest potential. A common aspiration of CMCC's graduates is to treat patients to the best of their ability, to heal and to see each patient as a whole person with separate needs and unique health care concerns. What students learn at CMCC is knowledge that lasts a lifetime. By giving the gift of your body, you will be helping thousands of others, and their families, for generations to come.

Respect and dignity

The significance of your body donation and the tremendous contribution this makes toward chiropractic education and research is held in the highest regard by all faculty, students and researchers at CMCC. For the privilege granted to them, and in accordance with a tradition of excellence at CMCC, donations are given the respect they deserve and are treated with utmost dignity at all times.

Who can donate?

Almost everyone is potentially eligible to make the gift of their body for donation. While most donations are accepted, CMCC reserves the right to decline any donation. Should a body be unacceptable for anatomical education and research the next-of-kin or executor must arrange alternate plans with a Funeral Director.

The suitability of the donor is determined prior to the transportation of the body to CMCC. Circumstances which would disqualify a body from donation include, but are not limited to, bodies that have had an autopsy performed, have undergone recent surgery or organ donation (except for eyes), or had certain infectious diseases (HIV/AIDS, hepatitis, MRSA, etc.). There is no upper age limit for the donation of a body.

Cost involved

The cost involved in transporting the body locally – from the place of death to CMCC – will be fully covered by CMCC. Should the death occur outside of the Greater Toronto Area, the estate of the deceased will be requested to assist with any additional transportation costs.

Expenses related to the preparation, cremation and burial are covered by CMCC. Return of the ashes to the family for private burial can be arranged. All expenses incurred for a private burial are the responsibility of the estate of the deceased.

Length of donation

The length of time a donor stays with CMCC is variable. Typically, CMCC retains the body for a period of 18 months to three years. Depending on the needs of the Anatomy Department and the number of donations received, families may be asked for an extension of the donation.



Memorial Plaque “Celebration of Life” – Body Donation Recognition

CMCC and our students are truly grateful for the generous donations we receive from all of our donors. When a person donates their body to chiropractic education and research, it helps prepare tomorrow’s chiropractors for a lifetime of vital work in health care, and celebrates the importance of life, health and knowledge. In 2010, CMCC was approached by the Holtom family, to provide permanent recognition within CMCC to honour those who have made such impactful donations. We are pleased to show our appreciation to those individuals who have helped us in our efforts to produce quality health care practitioners.



Memorial Service

A memorial service is held at the end of each academic year to honour those who have generously donated their bodies. The remains are cremated and the ashes are buried in the CMCC plot at St. James' Cemetery in Toronto. If the family wishes, ashes can be returned to them. Family, friends, students, faculty, and staff are all invited to attend the memorial service at St. James' Cemetery, where a memorial stone commemorates our donors' contributions to chiropractic education and research.

For further information regarding the Body Donation Program at CMCC or if you would like to request additional donation forms, please contact:

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