

THE WCR LEARNING COMMUNITY

This project is made possible through funding from the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia.



Colleen Kohse has lived for 23 years with a donated heart and lungs.
Photo by Ian Smith, *The Vancouver Sun*

New lungs, new life

Adapted from *The Vancouver Sun*

Level 2

Colleen Kohse, 53, lives in Vancouver. When she was in her 20s she received new lungs. At that time, Kohse was very ill. She had cystic fibrosis (CF). CF is a disease. CF affects the lungs. People with CF have a hard time breathing. They also get infections in their lungs. Kohse lost many of her friends who also had CF.

She had her lung **transplant** surgery in England.

Doctors in B.C. were not doing the surgery in the 1990s.

Campbell gets new lungs

Hélène Campbell, 21, had a double-lung transplant in 2012 in Toronto.

Before that, her health was very bad. She was near death.

She had trouble breathing.

So, she could hardly speak.

Now she says,

“21 years ago I breathed for the first time. Today I breathe for a second beginning – a true miracle.”

Campbell was so happy.

“I have a voice,” she said.

She did a dance with her parents and doctors.

She now exercises on a treadmill.

She wants to become strong again.

“Every day I take 54 pills,” she told reporters.

She is very grateful.

She has the gift of new lungs.

She remembers the family who donated them.

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Campbell used **social media** to tell people about her problem. Famous people saw her story on Facebook. Justin Bieber and Ellen DeGeneres wanted to help. Campbell wants people to think about something. She wants them to become **organ donors**.

Donating organs

In 2011 in B.C., 277 sick people received organs from 70 **deceased** donors. [B.C. Transplant](#) wants people in B.C. to register to become organ donors. It takes a few minutes. You need your CareCard to complete the form.

Vocabulary:

- **transplant:** The removal of an organ from one person's body and the insertion of that organ into another person to replace a damaged organ; for example, lungs, a heart, kidney can be transplanted.
- **social media:** ways of contacting others on the computer to share information, ideas, personal messages; for example Facebook, Twitter and YouTube
- **organ donor:** someone who gives an organ to be used in another person's body
- **deceased:** someone who is no longer alive

("Exercise" is on the next page)

Exercise:

Read the words carefully then circle the correct letter:

1. In B.C. last year many sick people got organs from....
 - a) the doctors
 - b) their families
 - c) donors who had died

2. Colleen Kohse received new lungs when....
 - a) she was in her 20's
 - b) she was young
 - c) in Vancouver

3. Cystic fibrosis is a disease which....
 - a) makes your heart beat slower
 - b) affects your lungs
 - c) attacks young people

4. Kohse had surgery in England because....
 - a) her family lived there
 - b) she wanted to take a trip
 - c) doctors in Vancouver were not doing the surgery yet

5. H el ene Campbell had a transplant.
She is grateful for....
 - a) the gift of new lungs
 - b) all the friendly doctors
 - c) the visits from her family.

6. Campbell wants people to....
 - a) learn about cystic fibrosis
 - b) become organ donors
 - c) give money to help

("Answers" and "Link" are on the next page)

Answers:

1. c 2. a 3. b 4. c 5. a 6. b

Link:

Hélène Campbell on the Ellen DeGeneres Show:

<http://www.vancouversun.com/entertainment/Double+lung+transplant+recipient+H%C3%A9l%C3%A8ne+Campbell+finally/7985930/story.html>