

STOP FOR-PROFIT PLASMA COLLECTION

On September 7, Canadian Blood Services (CBS) announced an undisclosed 15-year deal with *Grifols*, a for-profit multinational pharmaceutical company, to privatize plasma collection in Canada.

This agreement gives *Grifols* a monopoly to collect paid plasma in Ontario and B.C. CBS has taken advantage of a legal loophole to get around a ban on private companies collecting blood for payment.

Canadian veins are not-for-profit.

What's at stake?

- **Private plasma collection** creates a blood-for-money system.
- **Private plasma collection** exploits vulnerable populations.
- **Private plasma collection** does not guarantee Canada's blood plasma self-sufficiency.
- **Private plasma collection** favors profits over ethics.
- **Private plasma collection** negatively impacts voluntary donor populations.

Save our public voluntary blood system!

What should CBS leadership be doing?

- **Invest in public plasma collection:** Héma-Québec has shown that investment in public voluntary plasma collection is key to self-sufficiency. Australia, too, has reached almost 60% self-sufficiency, with just 2 plasma-only collection centres, by upgrading the majority of blood collection centres to collect both plasma and blood – an easier, faster transition.

Instead of throwing money at a private company, CBS should invest in plasma collection centres and upgrade more blood donation centres so they can also collect plasma.
- **Protect plasma donors:** Private plasma companies have a history of exploiting vulnerable communities. Their predatory practices target young people and those facing financial difficulty. Canadian donors should never be treated as a source for private economic gain.
- **Respect the Voluntary Blood Donations Act:** The Voluntary Blood Donations Act bans payment for blood in Ontario. The exemption allowing CBS to pay donors was meant for emergency circumstances; not as a legal loophole to sell off Canada's plasma donors to private companies!
- **Stop the secrecy:** CBS cannot be allowed to quietly privatize Canada's blood plasma. CBS is accountable to the public. CBS must uphold their mandate to treat blood and plasma as a public resource: Cancel the deal with Grifols!



Take action!

Send a message to the
CBS Board and Canada's
Health Ministers to keep
our national blood
collection system
voluntary and public.
Stop for-profit plasma
collection now!



*"Plasma, just like whole
blood, is a public resource
that must be safeguarded
for Canadians."*

- Canadian Blood Services, 2017



BloodWatch.org

 national union
of public and general employees

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