

Ministry of Health

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361-2022-7345

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Pauline Worsfold, R.N.
Chair
Canadian Health Coalition
116 Albert Street, 3rd Floor
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Michèle Brill-Edwards, M.D.
Board Member
Canadian Health Coalition
116 Albert Street, 3rd Floor
Ottawa, ON K1P 5G3
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Dear Ms. Worsfold and Dr. Brill-Edwards:

Thank you for writing to me regarding Canadian Blood Services' (CBS) announcement regarding blood plasma collection in Canada. As the lead for the National Blood File, I appreciate the opportunity to respond and provide you with additional information.

Our government remains focused on building a health care system that ensures Ontarians have safe and easy access to the care they need, including those in need of lifesaving blood and blood products. To address Canada's domestic plasma sufficiency, Ontario and other provinces and territories have collectively invested approximately \$59.1 million to support the establishment and operation of eight dedicated CBS plasma collection centres across Canada. By 2023, Ontario will have five dedicated plasma donor centres across the

province. Both the 2018 Health Canada Expert Panel and Auditor General's 2020 value-for-money audit strongly recommend the need to collect more plasma in Canada.

In response to an ongoing global shortage of plasma-derived medications, such as immunoglobulins, and risks to cross-border supply chains, the agreement ensures plasma donated in Canada is used to make medications in Canada for patients across the country. This will enable Canada's first end-to-end supply chain to meet patients' critical need for immunoglobulins.

As we look to the future, provincial and territorial governments will continue working with CBS to consider ways to improve Canadian sufficiency in plasma collection to ensure patients who need plasma-derived medications are protected. The ministry will continue to prioritize the safety of patients as we monitor CBS's approach to plasma collection in Canada.

Once again, thank you for writing to me about this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Jones', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sylvia Jones
Deputy Premier and Minister of Health

c: Dr. Catherine Zahn, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health
Patrick Dicerri, Assistant Deputy Minister, Health Program and Delivery Division,
Ministry of Health