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July 15, 2026

Dr. Brian Postl, CM, OM, MD, FRCP(C), FCAHS
Chair, Board of Directors
Canadian Blood Services

Dear Dr. Postl,

Thank you for the opportunity to present at the Canadian Blood Services' board of directors' meeting on June 1 on the Canadian Health Coalition's position on paid plasma.

We strongly support CBS's mandate to ensure Canadian patients have access to safe blood products. However, we do not agree that Grifols or any other corporation can fulfil that mandate by buying plasma from donors. Where is the evidence that it is safe?

Based on what we know, Grifols has allowed ineligible donors to sell their plasma, putting Canada's plasma supply at great risk. Health Canada's inspection report (March 30, 2026), obtained by *The Globe and Mail*, found several cases of Grifols centres allowing people to sell their plasma who should have been denied because of risks associated with the fatal brain disorder Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) and its variant linked to mad cow disease. The Health Canada report cited Section 42 of Canada's blood regulations, pertaining to unsuitable donors possibly affecting blood safety. The report also details concerns with Grifols centres operating with an overcapacity of donors relative to the number of key staff present, not having personnel in its collection centres with the appropriate education, training or experience, and not always having physicians or physician-substitutes on site.

While previously reported deficiencies have led Health Canada to impose terms and conditions on Grifols' licence, requiring more staff supervision and limiting the number of donors present in its locations at a time, we do not feel such measures are enough. The serious deficiencies uncovered by a growing number of Health Canada reports merits an end to paid plasma and to CBS's agreement with Grifols to collect plasma. According to Health Canada, over the past decade, 25 of the 27 serious adverse reactions experienced by plasma donors have occurred at Grifols-owned sites.

Notably, the deficiencies include how staff respond to alerts on plasma donation machines. As uncovered by the reporting of The Globe and Mail's Chris Hannay, over the 46 minutes that 22-year-old Rodiyat Alabede was donating plasma at the Grifols centre in Winnipeg, the donation machine displayed five alerts related to her blood pressure and blood flow. Why did none of the alerts result in the donation being terminated? According to the plasma machine's operating manual, it should have. Rodiyat was convulsing with seizure-like symptoms for 2 minutes before Grifols staff ended the donation. About one hour later she was dead. The way Rodiyat was treated at the Grifols centre in Winnipeg was unacceptable.

We are not confident that the deficiencies at the Grifols sites are being appropriately addressed, and with the end of the Public Health Agency's hemovigilance system, we are even more concerned. The system tracked adverse events across the transfusion chain in health care settings before concluding operations on March 31, 2026. This cut was done without stakeholder consultation and against recommendations of two independent audits.

While Grifols said it has implemented corrective action plans after the Health Canada inspections, the corporation did not say how it had improved screening of donors at risk of CJD, as noted by Hannay in the Globe report. A pattern is emerging at Grifols sites where poor record-keeping, poor staff training and poor donor screening is all too frequent.

Enclosed are my remarks to the board meeting on June 1 that include references to peer-reviewed research. Our concerns around the precautionary principle and dangers of paid plasma stand. We again ask, what would it take for the CBS board to end paid plasma and its contract with Grifols, if not the precautionary principle, violations at Grifols centres, clear systemic issues and two unexplained deaths?

We support strengthening domestic plasma collection to ensure long-term access. We firmly believe we can achieve this goal through voluntary collection. We hope to be able to continue our dialogue on ensuring Canada's blood and plasma supply is safe and adequate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tracy Glynn', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tracy Glynn

National Director of Projects and Operations
Canadian Health Coalition

c.c.: Dr. Graham Sher, CEO, Canadian Blood Services