

**March 14, 2014**

**For Immediate Release:**

**Statement from Canadian Plasma Resources:**

Every day thousands of Ontarians rely on life saving pharmaceutical products that are manufactured from paid plasma donors in the United States. This is necessary because, as Health Canada noted in its public consultation report, no country in the world has been able to meet its need for plasma with a solely volunteer model. Canadian Blood Services confirmed this in its 2012-2013 annual report to Canadians where it stated “self-sufficiency is not operationally or economically feasible in a volunteer, non-remunerated model”. The fact is Canada’s need for plasma significantly exceeds our ability to produce it. This is why for example, Ontario’s Trillium Gift of Life Network Act includes an exemption for blood constituents.

Today, Ontario Health Minister Deb Matthews announced her intention to block Ontario companies from collecting this needed plasma from paid donors here while Ontario’s Health Care system continues to purchase hundreds of millions of dollars of these products from paid donors in the United States. While Justice Krever recommended a voluntary supply system for Canada, he also recommended that Canada become self-sufficient. In the twenty years since his report, history has shown that these two objectives are incompatible when it comes to the production of life saving plasma products.

There is no evidence that compensating plasma donors weakens the voluntary donor system. The Province of Manitoba has allowed paid plasma donations for 25 years without any negative impact on its voluntary donor system. And in other jurisdictions, with large paid plasma donation systems, voluntary donations outpace Canada at rate of almost two to one.

This is not about collecting blood or plasma for transfusion. Only Canadian Blood Services and Hema -Quebec collect blood and plasma for transfusion. This is about collecting plasma that will be manufactured into critical pharmaceutical products for patients with life threatening diseases.

“Paid plasma donations help save patient’s lives” said Canadian Plasma Resources CEO Dr. Barzin Bahardoust. “Our proposal will help meet the increasing need for these products and create jobs right here in Ontario. Minister Matthews has been given the evidence that paid plasma donations do not harm the voluntary system. We call on her to meet with the patients who rely on these products, examine the data, and reconsider her decision”

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For the position of the Canadian Hemophilia Society policy on paid plasma donations please visit:  
<http://www.hemophilia.ca/en/about-the-chs/public-affairs/chs-policy-on-paid-plasma-donations/>

For the Health Canada Report please visit:  
<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/consultation/biolog/plasma-eng.php>

For the position of Durhane Wong-Rieger, President of the Canadian Organization for Rare Disorders - please visit  
<http://fullcomment.nationalpost.com/2013/07/30/durhane-wong-rieger-the-case-for-paid-plasma-donations/>

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