



CANADIAN PLASMA RESOURCES

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Bill S-252 – Briefing note for Honourable Senators

- Every year, Canadian Blood Services and Hema Quebec spend approx. \$800 million importing plasma based pharmaceutical products (PPTs) from foreign companies. All of these companies are for-profit, and all of them pay their plasma donors. Donors are paid because donating plasma requires repeat donations and a very significant time commitment compared to donating blood
- Thousands of patients in Canada rely on these products to survive. These patients include those with immune deficiencies, cancer, burns, and HIV/AIDS. Demand for PPTs is growing rapidly and Canada is the largest per-capita importer in the world
- PPTs are safe and strictly regulated by Health Canada. There has not been a single transmission of HIV or Hep C due to these products in over 20 years. This is due to advanced screening and manufacturing processes and viral inactivation procedures
- Suggesting that PPTs coming from paid plasma donors are unsafe safe flies in the face of all available evidence, science, Health Canada and FDA regulations, as well as the official positions of Canadian Blood Services and Hema Quebec. It is also unfair to the thousands of patients who depend on these products every day to survive
- A recent Health Canada Expert Panel report concluded that these products are safe, that there is no evidence the commercial plasma sector has harmed the voluntary blood collection system, and that the only jurisdictions in the world who are self-sufficient in the production of PPTs are those that permit paid plasma donors
- Canada contributes approximately 17% of the raw plasma (from volunteer donors) required to manufacture these drugs. This raw plasma is shipped by Canadian Blood Services to foreign for-profit companies abroad to manufacture drugs which are then purchased for patients. 83 percent of the plasma needed for Canadian patients comes from paid donors in the United States
- Canadian Plasma Resources is attempting to collect and manufacture PPTs for the Canadian market in exactly the same way foreign companies currently serve the Canadian market. Our plan is to open ten plasma collection centres here and build a manufacturing facility to supply the Canadian health care system
- Canada will always rely on paid plasma donors to meet patient demand in this country. Even if the current proposal from Canadian Blood Services to increase the supply of volunteer donors to 50% is successful, we will rely on the paid donor for the other 50%.
- As Bill S-252 does not ban the importation of products manufactured from paid plasma donors, (to do so would threaten the lives of thousands of patients) the effect of this Bill would simply guarantee that the only companies permitted to supply Canadian patients will remain foreign ones

Give Plasma, Give Life