



April 20, 2023

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Ministers of Health,

Canadian Blood Services (CBS) has made an undisclosed 15-year deal with the Spanish-owned pharmaceutical corporation Grifols to privatize blood plasma collection services in Canada. The deal would allow Grifols to pay donors for their plasma and grants the company a monopoly on paid plasma collection in Ontario and BC.

If allowed, the agreement would violate the Voluntary Blood Donations Act in Ontario, which protects blood plasma as a public resource.

Appointing Grifols as a third-party collector for CBS would create a two-tier system for plasma collection. CBS has argued that because they are “exempt” from the law, Grifols should be too – but they are wrong.

CBS publicly took a stand against privatizing the collection of plasma in 2017. But, behind the scenes they were already taking steps to sell access to our plasma donors to private, for-profit companies whose collection model specifically targets poor and vulnerable populations to sell their plasma.

A shift toward a paid plasma collection would undermine CBS’ voluntary collection efforts and endanger the security of our voluntary donor base. It is also a betrayal of the public trust and an ethical violation of CBS’ duty to safeguard the blood system and voluntary donor base.

The [Krever Commission’s](#) findings are clear: blood is a public resource, donors shouldn’t be paid for their blood or plasma, and CBS should not contract their duties to another company. This deal contravenes these principles and current recommendations from all international blood organizations.

We’re asking you to **take action** and **commit** to the following:

1. Investigate the nature of this agreement and make the terms public.
2. Issue an order for CBS to comply with the terms of the Voluntary Blood Donations Act.

With these critical changes, we can protect the integrity of the voluntary donation system and keep profit out of blood and plasma collection.

Ontario donors are not for sale.

We're calling on you to do the right thing.

Sincerely,



Marit Stiles  
Leader, Official Opposition



France Gélinas  
Health Critic, Official Opposition

CC: Dr. Graham Sher, CEO of Canadian Blood Services  
Dr. Brian Postl, Chair of the Canadian Blood Services Board of Directors