

Take Action!

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Send a message to the CBS Board and Canada's Health Ministers to keep our national blood collection system voluntary and public.

“Plasma, just like whole blood, is a public resource that must be safeguarded for Canadians.”

- Canadian Blood Services, 2017



STOP FOR-PROFIT PLASMA COLLECTION

On September 7, Canadian Blood Services (CBS) announced an undisclosed 15-year deal with Grifols, a for-profit multinational pharmaceutical company, to privatize plasma collection in Canada.

This agreement gives *Grifols* a monopoly to collect paid plasma in Ontario and B.C.

CBS has taken advantage of a legal loophole to get around a ban on private companies collecting blood for payment.



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Canadian veins are not-for-profit.

What's at stake?

- **For-Profit plasma collection** creates a blood-for-money system.
- **For-Profit plasma collection** exploits vulnerable populations.
- **For-Profit plasma collection** does not guarantee Canada's blood plasma self-sufficiency.
- **For-Profit plasma collection** favours profits over ethics.
- **For-Profit plasma collection** negatively impacts voluntary donor populations.



Save our **public** voluntary blood system!

What needs to be done?

✓ **Invest in public plasma collection:** Héma-Québec has shown that investment in public voluntary plasma collection is key to self-sufficiency. Australia, too, has reached almost 60% self-sufficiency, with just 2 plasma-only collection centres, by upgrading the majority of blood collection centres to collect both plasma and blood - an easier, faster transition.

Instead of throwing money at a private company, CBS should invest in plasma collection centres and upgrade more blood donation centres so they can also collect plasma.

✓ **Protect plasma donors:** Private plasma companies have a history of exploiting vulnerable communities. Their predatory practices target young people and those facing financial difficulty. Canadian donors should never be treated as a source for private profits.

✓ **Respect the Voluntary Blood Donations Act:** The Voluntary Blood Donations Act bans payment for blood in Ontario and British Columbia. The exemption allowing CBS to pay donors was meant for emergency circumstances; not as a legal loophole to sell off Canada's plasma donors to private companies!

✓ **Stop the secrecy:** CBS cannot be allowed to quietly privatize Canada's blood system. CBS is accountable to the public. CBS must uphold their mandate to treat blood and plasma as a public resource: Cancel the deal with Grifols!