

New Brunswick Health Coalition
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Moncton, NB
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Honourable Brian Gallant
Centennial Building
P.O. Box 6000
Fredericton, NB
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January 25, 2017

Premier Gallant,

Our province faces an important decision when it comes to our national blood and plasma supply. A private, for-profit blood plasma collector is set to open a business in Moncton that will pay New Brunswickers \$25 for their blood plasma donation.

This clinic presents many issues. It contravenes recommendations in the Krever report which gave our country a blueprint for how to keep our national blood and plasma supply safe in the wake of the tainted blood tragedy. The company in question - Canadian Plasma Resources - has some questionable business practices such as setting up near methadone clinics and pawn shops in an effort to prey on the most vulnerable in our society.

However, the most pressing issue is what this clinic will do to our provincial and national supply of blood plasma. The only entity which can purchase medications made from plasma on behalf of Canadians is Canadian Blood Services (CBS). Funded by the provinces, CBS stated in a letter to each province that it will not do business with the company setting up in Moncton. This means the plasma collected by Canadian Plasma Resources will be sold on the open market and not a solitary drop will benefit New Brunswickers or Canadians.

At its recent annual general meeting, CBS stated it would begin increasing its efforts to collect plasma with a goal of doubling the current intake from approximately 200,000 litres to 400-500,000L per year. At the same meeting, a statement was made that CBS has asked all provincial health ministers to pause on allowing private blood and plasma brokers to set up shop in their provinces.

By allowing this company to operate, the New Brunswick government would be setting up a direct competitor to CBS - which it gives \$25-27 million annually. This could potentially mean less volunteers donating to our nation blood and plasma supply.

Imagine this scenario. Someone you love is in need of life-saving medication that comes from plasma. However, due to private brokers - like the one in Moncton - our national supply has been reduced. Instead, New Brunswickers plasma has left the country putting our national supply at risk.

It's a scary thought, but one that is on the verge of happening. We're asking you to not allow this to become a reality. We are asking that you take a proactive approach and ban the private sale of blood and plasma in order to protect the integrity and security of our national blood system. Let's give New Brunswickers the chance to donate their plasma to Canadian Blood Services and help save the lives of their fellow Canadians.

Sincerely,

Nancy Arseneau, co chair -543-6935

Jean-Claude Basque, co chair- 875-1310

Organizations that signed:

1. Association de bibliothécaires, professeures et professeurs de l'Université de Moncton, Etienne Dako, président.
2. Association francophone des aînés du NB, Jean-Luc Bélanger, Executive-Director.
3. Association of University of New Brunswick Teachers, Allan Reid, President.
4. Canadian Federation of Students, Brittany Dixon, NB Representative.
5. Canadian Labour Congress, Alex Furlong, Atlantic Regional Director.
6. Canadian Union of Public Employees, NB Division, Danny Léger, President.
7. Coalition for seniors and Nursing Home Residents, Cecile Cassista, Executive Director.
8. Fédération des étudiants et étudiantes de l'Université de Moncton, Roxann Guérette, présidente.
9. Justice and Solidarity Committee, Moncton Diocese, Dianne Léger, coordinator.
10. Mount Allison Faculty Association, Andrew Irwin, President.
11. NB Common Front for Social Justice, Pauline Richard, Co-Chair.
12. NB Council of Hospital Unions, Norma Robinson, President.
13. NB Council of Nursing Home Unions. Wayne Brown, President.
14. NB Federation of Labour, Patrick Colford, President.
15. NB Federation of Union Retirees, Alex Grimaldi, President.
16. NB Nurses Union, Paula Doucet, President.
17. NB Seniors Citizens Federation, Léonard LeBlanc, President.
18. New Brunswick Union, Susie Proulx-Daigle, President.

19. Regroupement féministe du NB, Nellie Dennene, Executive-Director.
20. Société de l'Acadie du NB, Kevin Arseneau, President.

cc. Media
Members of the Legislature
Members of parliament-NB
Senators- NB
Provincial Political Parties
BloodWatch