

Coalition de la santé du NB
236 rue St George, pièce 412
Moncton, NB, E1C 1W1



NB Health Coalition
236 St George Street, Suite 412
Moncton, NB, E1C 1W1

News release

For immediate publication

July 5, 2017

Victor Boudreau, our minister of Health, is alone in his support for a for-profit plasma collection clinic in Moncton.

Moncton – ``The three opposition parties, the Conservatives, the Green and the NDP are all opposed to the opening of a for-profit plasma collection clinic in Moncton and are, in essence, all opposed to the decision of our minister of Health, Victor Boudeau, who is supporting this clinic`` says Nancy Arseneau, co-chair of the NB Health Coalition

``At a June 13, 2017 meeting with Brian Macdonald, Progressive Conservative Health critic, it was made clear to me and two other members of our Coalition, that the Conservative Party of New Brunswick is opposed to the opening of a for-profit plasma collection clinic in Moncton.`` continues Jean-Claude Basque, co-chair.

For David Coon, leader of the New Brunswick Green Party:`` *Paying people for blood products is putting a price on human tissues and undermines the voluntary nature of blood and blood products donations which is the backbone of our public blood system.*''

As for Rosaire L'Italien, interim leader of the New Democratic party`` *We have to ask, who are the people who will consider selling their plasma? We believe that it will be those in the community that are the most vulnerable. Will it be university students that have a shortage of cash? Will it be those members of our community that have by life's circumstances fallen to the fringe of society and need the money to support an addiction? Will it be the seniors in our community that will want this money so that they no longer need to choose between food and medications? And will it be the younger people around us that just want some extra money to spend? By allowing such a company in the community by virtue of its model, it will attract the most vulnerable members of our community to do something that no one should ever be asked to do, sell their plasma.*``

Following the contaminated blood scandal, Justice Krever proposed that the donors be non-remunerated and that Canada should have a single national system for the collection of blood and blood products. Those recommendations gave birth to Canadian Blood Services which replaced the Canadian Red Cross.

2. It is recommended that the Canadian blood supply system be governed by five basic principles .:

b) Donors of blood and plasma should not be paid for their donations, except in rare circumstances

3. It is recommended that Canada have a national system for the collection and delivery of blood components and blood products.

4. It is recommended that the core functions of the national blood supply system be performed by a single operator and not be contracted out to other.

Source Commission of Inquiry on the Blood system in Canada, Volume 3, Part IV pages 1049 et 1050.

``We simply don't understand how a minister of Health can decide to go against three of the key recommendation of this Commission. On top of that, this goes against the express view of the Canadian Blood Service which stated in their January 24, 2017 news release: *Plasma, just like whole blood, is a public resource that must be safeguarded for Canadians. Long-term security of the plasma supply for Ig (immune globulin) can only be achieved through increased plasma collection by the publicly funded and publicly accountable not-for-profit blood system operated by Canadian Blood Services. (our emphasis)* concludes Jean-Claude Basque

For information

Nancy Arseneau, co-chair-543-6935

Jean-Claude Basque, co-chair- 875-1310