



**Network of Rare Blood Disorder
Organizations**

**Réseau des associations vouées
aux troubles sanguins rares**

December 19, 2014

To the Members of the Provincial/Territorial Blood Liaison Committee:

In light of the passing this week of Bill 21 in Ontario and the potential of this issue to arise in other provinces as well, I am writing today on behalf of the NRBDO to share our position on this blood supply issue of voluntary vs. paid plasma collection.

The Network of Rare Blood Disorder Organizations, founded in 2004, is a coalition of national patient groups, formed to share the best practices in health care delivery for people with a blood disorder and/or recipients of blood or blood products or their alternatives. We work, advocate and lobby together on key issues to ensure and maintain patient access to comprehensive care.

The members of the NRBDO have paid close attention to blood safety and supply issues over the last decade, and we believe that Bill 21 is not in the best interests of patients who need plasma-derived medicinal products. It is important to make a distinction between policies that protect the health of Canadians and those which are only perceived to protect the health of Canadians, and to base these policies on up-to-date information. In this case, there is no evidence of safety risks with paid plasma donations in the last two decades, but the global over-reliance on the US paid plasma supply presents a growing risk to the patients we represent.

Please find attached the testimony of Dr. Tom Alloway, made on behalf of the NRBDO during the Bill 21 hearings, which more fully outlines our position on this issue. We thank you for your time and consideration. We believe policy decisions of this nature should not be made without hearing from those who are directly affected, so we would welcome the opportunity to discuss this with you further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Della Cogar'.

Della Cogar
NRBDO Chairperson 2014-2015