BCHealth Coalition

Dear Health Minister Terry Lake,

I am writing to ask the province of British Columbia to safeguard the health of Canadians and the integrity of our voluntary blood donation system by enacting legislation to ban the sale of blood and plasma in B.C., similar to legislation already in force in Ontario and Quebec.

Allowing this company, or any other, to pay donors for plasma conflicts with the recommendations of the four-year inquiry into the tainted blood scandal that infected over 30,000 Canadians with HIV and Hepatitis C.

The Krever report made unequivocal recommendations that must be heeded to prevent another tainted blood tragedy in this country. Specifically, the Inquiry recommended that no part of the national blood operators duties should be contracted out to others and that the Canadian blood system must by governed by these principles:

1. **Blood is a public resource.**
2. **Donors should not be paid.**
3. **Sufficient blood should be collected so that importation from other countries is unnecessary.**
4. **Access to blood and blood products should be free and universal.**
5. **Safety of the blood supply system is paramount.**

I support a publicly-regulated, not-for-profit voluntary blood and plasma donation system in Canada as recommended by Justice Krever, the World Health Organization, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Society, the International Society of Blood Transfusion, the International Federation of Blood Donor Organizations, and BloodWatch.org.

I urge you to ensure that B.C. enacts legislation banning the sale of blood and plasma in order to safeguard the health of Canadians and the integrity of our voluntary blood donation system.

Sincerely,

Name*_____ Signature*_____

Address_____

Town/City_____ Postal Code*_____

Date_____ Email*_____

Please return this letter to the BC Health Coalition (address below)

*Required

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