DATE:

Dear Minister Philpott,

I am writing you to ask that you protect the integrity of our national voluntary blood system by enacting legislation to ban the sale of blood and plasma in Canada, similar to the provincial laws that have been enacted in Ontario and Quebec. I am also asking that you cancel the license for Canadian Plasma Resources (CPR) so they can be prevented from selling Canadian plasma and making a profit.

Allowing a private company to pay donors for plasma directly contravenes Justice Horace Krever’s landmark four-year inquiry on how to manage a safe public blood system. 30,000 Canadians were infected with Hepatitis C and HIV in Canada, because profits and cost-cutting measures took precedent over public safety.

The Krever Report made unequivocal recommendations on how to avoid another Canadian blood tragedy. Specifically he stated that **the national blood operator’s duties should not be contracted out to others. Canadian Blood Services was given the mandate to be Canada’s only sole plasma and blood collector.** Justice Krever stated that our blood system be guided by these five basic 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. 4. Access to blood and blood products should be free and universal
5. Safety of the blood supply is paramount

I support a not-for profit blood and plasma donations 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.

Our Canadian plasma is not meant to be a commodity that is bought and sold and Canadians and CBS must retain control over the point of collection of blood and plasma in our country whether it is used for transfusions or for plasma based medications. I urge you to enact this legislation and cancel the license to CPR immediately.

Sincerely,

Name/Address