**Hon.** **George Hickes**

Minister of Health

926 Federal Rd, Iqaluit

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Dear Minister Hickes,

I am writing to urge you to safeguard the health of Canadians and the integrity of our public, voluntary blood donation system by enacting legislation to ban the sale of blood and plasma in our province. Ontario enacted the **Voluntary Blood Donations Act** in 2014 in order to stop private blood brokers who wanted to pay people for their blood plasma in order to sell it for a profit on the international market. Quebec has also implemented legislation banning the sale of blood and plasma.

Protecting our public blood system is in keeping with the recommendations of the landmark Krever Inquiry that resulted from Canada’s devastating tainted blood crisis. The World Health Organization has recommended that all blood products worldwide be collected voluntarily by 2020. Canadian Blood Services (CBS) is the sole operator of our blood system and any support for private blood brokers creates competition for CBS.

Please support Canadian Blood Services and protect our voluntary blood system by banning the private collection and sale of blood and plasma as Ontario, Alberta and Quebec have already done.

Sincerely,