



April 18, 2024

Mayor Andrea Horwath
Hamilton City Hall
71 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario
L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor Horwath,

As a Hamiltonian, I would like to express my concern regarding the notice of motion for the April 29th meeting of the Committee on Public Health to declare the City of Hamilton a “plasma-free zone”. Not only am I a plasma product user, but I am also Chair of Immunity Canada, the patient organization representing thousands of primary immunodeficiency patients across Canada who are life dependant on the plasma-derived medicinal product (PDMP), Immunoglobulin replacement therapy (IG).

For over 85% of primary immunodeficiency patients there is no alternative therapy than IG. In their 2019 report on IG, Health Canada stated that primary immunodeficiency was the only disease state that is life dependent on IG. These patients, like myself, rely on this PDMP for not only continued stability of their disease but to live.

The WHO and the EMA has listed IG as a critical medicine, and currently Canada only produces enough plasma to supply 13% of our patient needs, purchasing the rest on the global market. The US supplies 75% of the global plasma supply. To illustrate it in another way, in order to supply Canada’s patient needs, for every 10 plasma donors needed, only 2 are Canadian.

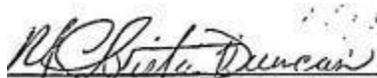
Plasma is a highly regulated industry, with not only regional regulators, but global safety standards, regulations and independent auditors. Donor safety remains paramount as not only are these built in requirements for regulators but also will determine the quality of the end product. There are no safety concerns, either for the patient receiving the product or the plasma donor.

CBS’ plasma business plans, including the partnership with the Spanish collector in question, would grow Canada’s plasma self-sufficiency from 13% to 50%. This initiative is supported by

the Province of Ontario, patients, patient organizations, physicians, physician organizations, and other stakeholders affected.

On behalf of Immunity Canada, I ask you to consider the perspectives of those affected stakeholders, as well as Canadian Blood Services, before making any reactionary motions that would create barriers to access to treatment for not only Hamiltonians like me but potentially thousands of Canadians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "M Christine Duncan-Wilson", written over a horizontal line.

M Christine Duncan-Wilson
Chair, Immunity Canada

cc: uzma.queshi@hamilton.ca, matt.gauthier@hamilton.ca, jennifer.vangennip@nrbd.ca