

July 25, 2025

Ms. Nancy Hamzawi, Public Health Agency of Canada
Public Health Agency of Canada
130 Colonnade Rd
Ottawa, ON, K1A 0K9
Sent via email

Dear Ms. Hamzawi:

We are pleased to write further following your June 20 letter providing support for Canadian Blood Services and Héma-Québec's proposal for a consensus conference on national hemovigilance and blood system surveillance in Canada. We understand Dr. Isra Levy, Canadian Blood Services' Vice-President of Medical Affairs and Innovation, and Dr. Natasha Crowcroft, Public Health Agency of Canada's Vice-President of the Infectious Diseases and Vaccination Programs Branch, have connected and will be discussing next steps for conference planning, including approach, budget and timelines.

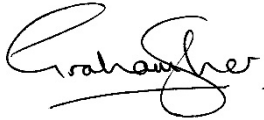
With respect to budget, we do assume that PHAC's letter of support is confirmation of federal dollars to appropriately fund the robust and comprehensive conference, including preparatory consultations and post-conference reporting. Canadian Blood Services has obtained high-level estimates from experienced and capable firms which will ensure an inclusive, extensive, risk-based, evidence-informed process for engagement, with all voices heard, to meet expectations and result in meaningful and implementable recommendations.

With that said, we do want to echo others in again seeking, as a first and preferred option, the reconsideration of the decision to sunset the Blood Safety Contribution Program (BSCP), and for PHAC to make the necessary improvements to address the findings of the recent Program evaluation.

If not a reconsidering of the decision, we respectfully ask for an immediate moratorium on current closure activities and dismantling of the BSCP until the conference recommendations are known and direction for an improved system is determined. This will avoid unnecessary confusion and mixed messaging from PHAC, and ensure Canada is not left vulnerable with a huge void to fill absent the BSCP, as cuts to vital science and surveillance occur around us. Now is the time for Canada to reduce reliance on others, to invest in our own capabilities, and meet or exceed World Health Organization hemovigilance standards. Our blood system history tells us this much, with the critical objectives of the past more relevant than ever in the here and now.

We look forward to discussing further in the weeks ahead.

Sincerely,



Dr. Graham Sher, O.C.
Chief Executive Officer
Canadian Blood Services



Nathalie Fagnan, M.S.M., FCPA, ICD.D
President and Chief Executive Officer
Héma-Québec

c.c.: FPT Ministers of Health
FPT Deputy Ministers of Health
P/T Blood Liaison Committee representatives
Dr. Isra Levy, Vice President, Medical Affairs and Innovation, Canadian Blood Services
Dr. Marc Germain, Vice-président aux affaires médicales et à l'innovation, Héma-Québec
Dr. Natasha Crowcroft, Vice-President of the Infectious Diseases and Vaccination Programs Branch, PHAC
Semhar Zerat, Director, Blood Safety Contribution Program, PHAC
Dr. Andrew Shih, Chair, National Advisory Committee on Blood and Blood Products (NAC)
Dr. Vincent Laroche, Chair, Comité consultatif national de médecine transfusionnelle (CCNMT)
Dr. Louise Deschenes, Chair, Québec Biovigilance Committee
Lindy McIntyre, Director, Health Policy and Governmental Affairs, Canadian Blood Services