

Securing Canada's supply of plasma

On August 25, Canadian Blood Services welcomed the first donors to our new dedicated plasma donor centre in Sudbury — a historic moment we were able to capture on <u>video</u>.

The new centre is the first of three designed to secure Canada's supply of donated plasma, along with the medicines made from plasma used to treat a growing number of illnesses. Two more plasma donor centres — one in Lethbridge, Alberta and one in Kelowna, B.C. will open within the next year.

Demand for plasma-derived medications is rapidly increasing, as they are used to effectively treat a number of immune deficiencies, bleeding disorders, cancers, and kidney and liver diseases. Increasing the amount of plasma collected from voluntary donors in Canada helps to secure a domestic supply of plasma for those medications.

First to donate at the new centre in Sudbury were the mother and grandmother of nine-year old Heydan Morrison, who relies on medication made from donated plasma to stay healthy.

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