



Aplastic Anemia & Myelodysplasia
ASSOCIATION OF CANADA
ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE
de l'anémie aplasique et de la myélodysplasie

The Honourable Ginette Petitpas-Taylor, PC, MP
Minister of Health Canada
70 Columbine Driveway
Tunney's Pasture
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K9

Dear Madame,

This letter is in support of Canadian Blood Services' request to reduce the deferral period for male blood donors who have sex with other men from one year to three months.

As a long time member organization of Canadian Blood Services National Liaison Committee, Aplastic Anemia and Myelodysplasia Association of Canada (AAMAC) has been involved in the ongoing stakeholder discussions around this particular deferral. We believe Canadian Blood Services has the safety of the blood supply front of mind in all their decision making discussions and whole-heartedly trust that reducing the deferral period would cause no additional safety concerns to the nation's blood supply.

We have been proud to be involved in the consultation process throughout the last number of years and feel that Canadian Blood Services has addressed any concerns that have been raised along the way.

AAMAC supports continued discussion on this topic with the intended purpose being the elimination of the deferral period in favour of a gender-neutral, behaviour-based screening policy.

We believe that the proposed change to a three month deferral aligns with the government's evidence-based approach to policy change, research and science.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Respectfully,

Ashley Oakes
Past Chair
Aplastic Anemia and Myelodysplasia Association of Canada