



THE CANADIAN CENTRE FOR
**GENDER+SEXUAL
DIVERSITY**



LE CENTRE CANADIEN DE LA
**DIVERSITÉ DES GENRES
+ DE LA SEXUALITÉ**

C304-440 rue Albert St, Ottawa, ON K1R 5B5 (territoire Algonquin Territory)
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The Honourable Ginette Petitpas-Taylor, PC, MP

Minister of Health of Canada
70 Colombine Driveway
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Hon.Ginette.Petitpas-Taylor@Canada.ca

Cc'd :**Simon Kennedy**, Deputy Minister, Health Canada: Simon.kennedy@canada.ca
And **Pierre Sabourin**, Assistant Deputy Minister, Health Products and Food Branch
(HPFB) Health Canada: Pierre.sabourin@canada.ca
And **Cathy Parker**, Acting Director General, Biologics & Genetic Therapies Directorate,
(HPFB) Health Canada: Cathy.parker@canada.ca
And **Dr. Graham Sher**, CEO, Canadian Blood Services (graham.sher@blood.ca)
And **Don Lapierre** (don.lapierre@blood.ca) at Canadian Blood Services.

Dear Minister of Health,

The Canadian Centre for Gender & Sexual Diversity would like to express for Canadian Blood Services next incremental step in altering the blood donation policy for men who have sex with men. This request will seek permission to move from the current 1 year waiting period from last sexual contact to a 3-month waiting period.

To be clear, the CCGSD does not see this as a final step but rather one that can be safely adopted while we await results of current research.

Current research indicates that the MSM deferral is no more than a historically discriminatory barrier that continues today. Moreover, international research indicates that MSM communities (gay, bi, queer, two-spirit, trans men who have sex with men) are no risk to the blood supplies. We truly believe that once implemented, expectation of further surveillance and research to alter the deferral to a gender-neutral screening policy or one that defers folks on behaviour (instead of identity) would better protect the blood supply.

The CCGSD has been working with Canadian Blood Services and other organizations on this file for over 15 years. As a participant of the recent consultations, we are proud of the work Canadian Blood Services is doing to advance this work. This consultation approach has brought all stakeholders to this critical point. We are share a need to have a safe, accessible and generous supply of blood in our country; and we know that by working together we can make this a reality. Through the consultation process, all



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stakeholders increased our comfort level and knowledge that allows us to support Canadian Blood Services in its efforts.

This is more than just improving our blood services in our country—this is about fundamentally addressing historical forms of discrimination. The impact of this systemic discrimination has hurt 2LGBT1Q+ communities, and we need Health Canada to eliminate this systemic heterosexism & cissexism.

It is our belief that this proposed policy change is also aligned with the government's evidence-based approach and its prioritization of research and science.

Should you have any questions, we would be happy to meet with you to discuss future.

Thank you,

Mr. Jeremy Dias

(pronouns: il, lui, he, him, his)

votre directeur général | your Executive Director

Le Centre canadien de la diversité des genres & de la sexualité |

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