

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

CC: Simon Kennedy, Deputy Minister, Health Canada  
Pierre Sabourin, Assistant Deputy Minister, HFPB  
Cathy Parker, Acting Director General, Biologics & Genetic Therapies Directorate, (HPFB)  
Dr. Graham Sher, CEO, Canadian Blood Services  
Don Lapierre, Manager - Stakeholder Relations, Canadian Blood Services.

**RE: MSM Policy**

December 10, 2018

Dear Minister Ginette Petitpas-Taylor,

I am writing to express my support for a 3-month, time-based deferral for MSM Donors, and to encourage you to support and move forward with the proposal coming from Canadian Blood Services (CBS). In an atmosphere of blood shortages, these incremental steps will lead to more care for our fellow Canadians.

As a potential donor deferred by the MSM Policy, I am passionate about the prospect of yet another positive, incremental step towards a blood system that allows individuals like myself to donate blood for transfusion. I have independently been part of the MSM stakeholder group since the deferral was still indefinite, when we changed to 5 years, and then to one year, and have seen the slow yet exciting progress toward a more inclusive and less restrictive blood policy. I feel as though the ongoing consultation process with CBS has greatly informed my decision to support this proposal.

This change would mark another point in MSM history, and, furthermore, it is my expectation that progress does not end there; surveillance, research and development must continue until fairness and justice is felt across LGBTQ2I communities across the country. It is my hope that this policy will again shift to include behavior-based, gender-neutral models, and would be inclusive of MSM donors who are in long-term, monogamous relationships, such as myself. Shifts such as these begin to mend the resentment felt within my community, and, in turn, donor support for CBS will grow.

While I wish that these changes happened sooner, and that the pending progress mentioned above could happen sooner, I deeply respect CBS's ongoing prioritization of research and review, ensuring that the proposals set forth are aligned with the government's value of evidence-driven changes. Good things take time, and what is of utmost importance is the continuance of our exemplary blood system, which I do believe would be maintained – if not improved – if this change is adopted.

I eagerly await further changes, and I am ready, when you are, to contribute to the blood system.

Sincerely, and with respect,

**Chad R. Walters, MSW, RSW**  
7-990 Gilford St.  
Vancouver, BC  
(604)363-3031