

**SUMMARY NOTES**  
**NATIONAL LIAISON COMMITTEE**  
**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2018**  
Delta City Centre Hotel

**CO-CHAIRS:**

Mr. Mel Cappe	Chair, Board of Directors
Dr. Kevin Glasgow	Consumer Representative, Board of Directors
Mr. David Lehberg	Consumer Representative, Board of Directors

**PRESENT:**

Ms. Donna Hartlen	GBS / CIDP Foundation of Canada
Ms. Josie Sirna	Thalassemia Foundation of Canada
Ms. Whitney Goulstone	Canadian Immunodeficiencies Patient Organization
Mr. Steve Raper	Regional Liaison Committee, BC & Yukon
Ms. Aida Fernandes	IMAGINE SPOR
Ms. Denise Evanovitch	Canadian Society for Transfusion Medicine
Ms. Elizabeth Myles	Kidney Foundation of Canada
Ms. Ashley Oakes	Aplastic Anemia and Myelodysplasia Association of Canada
Mr. Richard Thompson	Immunodeficiency Canada
Mr. Willy Van Klooster	Regional Liaison Committee, Ontario and Nunavut
Dr. Calvino Cheng	Nova Scotia Health Authority
Ms. Stephanie Perilli	Regional Liaison Committee, Prairie and Northwest Territories
Ms. Heather Mingo	Society for the Advancement of Blood Management
Mr. Fraser Eaton	Regional Liaison Committee, Atlantic
Mr. Pierre Cyr	Director, Board and Stakeholder Relations, Canadian Blood Services
Mr. Chris Brennan	Manager, Board and Stakeholder Relations, Canadian Blood Services
Ms. Christine Mastroianni	Senior Admin, Canadian Blood Services

**GUESTS:**

Dr. Craig Earle	Vice President, Canadian Partnership against Cancer
Mr. David Page	Canadian Hemophilia Society
Mr. Mohamed Dhanani	Ryerson University
Ms. Gina Parker	Stem Cell recipient family

**PRESENTERS:**

Ms. Cathy Gallagher-Louisy	Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion
Kristina Ireland	Consultant, Corporate Strategy Planning
Dr. Dana Devine	Chief Scientist
Rick Prinzen	Chief Supply Chain Officer; Vice President Donor Relations
Dr. Isra Levy	Vice President, Medical Affairs and Innovation

**EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM:**

Dr. Graham Sher	Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Blood Services
Mr. Ron Vezina	Vice President, Public Affairs
Ms. Judie Leach Bennett	Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary
Mr. Jean-Paul Bédard	Vice President, Plasma Operations
Mr. Andrew Pateman	Vice President, People, Culture and Performance

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Ms. Pauline Port

Vice President & Chief Financial Officer

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

Dr. Jeff Scott	Board of Directors, Canadian Blood Services
Ms. Glenda Yeates	Board of Directors, Canadian Blood Services
Ms. Judy Steele	Board of Directors, Canadian Blood Services
Ms. Anne McFarlane	Board of Directors, Canadian Blood Services
Ms. Suromitra Sanatani	Board of Directors, Canadian Blood Services
Mr. Dunbar Russel	Board of Directors, Canadian Blood Services
Mr. Craig Knight	Board of Directors, Canadian Blood Services
Mr. Michael Shaw	Board of Directors, Canadian Blood Services
Ms. Kelly Butt	Board of Directors, Canadian Blood Services
Mr. Wayne Gladstone	Board of Directors, Canadian Blood Services

**REGRETS:**

Ms. Stephanie Kelly	Senior Manager, Board and Stakeholder Relations, Canadian Blood Services
Mr. Ralph Michaelis	Chief Information Officer
Dr. Christian Choquet	Vice President, Quality and Regulatory Affairs

**OPENING REMARKS**

Ron Vezina welcomed everyone to Ottawa and introduced new Board Chair Mel Cappe.

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Mel Cappe addressed the committee and expressed his thanks for the work they have done. He spoke briefly about his background, then invited NLC co-chairs David Lehberg and Dr. Kevin Glasgow to open the meeting.

David Lehberg welcomed three new membership candidates to the meeting, Dr. Craig Earle, Canadian Partnership against Cancer; Mohamed Dhanani, Ryerson University, and Gina Parker, an advocate and stem cell family recipient rep, all attended the meeting as guest observers. He also thanked Dr. Tom Alloway, Esther Green, and John Andruschak for their service on the NLC. Round Table introductions of all members followed.

**REVIEW OF AGENDA**

The meeting agenda was reviewed. Aida Fernandes approved the motion, Dr. Calvino Cheng seconded. All members in favour.

**REVIEW OF SUMMARY NOTES FROM MARCH 2018**

Summary notes were reviewed, no changes or edits were required.

Fraser Eaton approved the motion. Steve Raper seconded. All members in favour.

**BOARD REPORT**

David Lehberg then updated the members on key matters the board has been focusing on since the NLC last met, including the appointment of several new board members, including new Board Chair Mel Cappe.

Meeting patient need remains a paramount area of focus for the board and growing a diverse and robust donor base is a key piece of ensuring the organization continues to meet those needs. The ongoing work on Canadian Blood Services' plasma strategy of course remains a central priority, as does the continued evolution of the MSM deferral policy.

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The board is also pleased to celebrate the organization's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary later this month. It's a great opportunity to reflect on the past, the successes we have shared, and the opportunities ahead. The new brand will be unveiled in the weeks ahead, and the board is excited to share that with Canadians.

Changes in the political realm require monitoring, as they are impactful on the organization. We continue to engage with those key players.

**ISSUES FOR THE BOARD**

Mel Cappe invited participants to highlight issues of key strategic importance for the board and welcomed an open dialogue on those issues. He then opened the floor to comments.

Issues raised:

- Concerns about the length of time that the drug review process takes, while it is acknowledged that many of the delays are outside of Canadian Blood Services' control, it remains a frustration for many patient groups
  - Patient representatives should be, and will be engaged in discussions about how this can be done better
- Given the complexity of some rare diseases, is there a pathway through Canadian Blood Services to help raise awareness about the needs of specific patient groups with the ultimate decision-makers in the provinces and territories?
- Concern expressed over potential impact of private insurance and what it could mean for IG access and formularies, and equal access for patients

**DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION WORKSHOP**

Canadian Blood Services, with the full support of the board and executive management team has placed a significant focus on the development of a diversity and inclusion strategy. The Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion has partnered with the organization in developing that strategy, and the Centre's Senior Director of Consulting, Cathy Gallagher-Louisy, led the NLC and board through a workshop to better understand the strategy and how it impacts the work of this organization.

The workshop focused on what is meant by diversity and inclusion, why it's important to the work that Canadian Blood Services does, an exploration of inclusive leadership, and what the next steps and milestones will be. Committee members participated in plenary discussions and small table work as part of the session.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE**

Kristina Ireland, from the corporate strategy group at Canadian Blood Services attended the NLC meeting to provide an update on the development of the organization's new five-year corporate strategy. The NLC had previously been consulted and had provided feedback and input into the development process, and Kristina circled back to show how that input was being utilized. She also explained next steps and timelines for the implementation of the plan.

**RESEARCH UPDATE – PATHOGEN INACTIVATION; MSM DEFERRAL POLICY**

Canadian Blood Services' Chief Scientist, Dr. Dana Devine spoke to the NLC about the latest advances in pathogen inactivation technologies and what the implications are for blood systems and patients around the world. Dana answered questions about Canadian Blood Services' research into the technology and potential timelines and impacts.



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She then provided an updated on Canadian Blood Services' work to further evolve the men who have sex with men (MSM) deferral policy. She spoke about the research agenda that is currently underway, and about the forthcoming submission to Health Canada to reduce the deferral period from 12 to 3 months.

**Plasma Protein Product Update**

Dr. Isra Levy and Rick Prinzen spoke to the NLC about the recently undertaken RFP review, as well as an update on product transition and next steps.

Patient groups in the room expressed concern about the depth of the review and whether it would look to merely tinker with the system, or would it truly delve into alternative ways to explore and consider issues and engage users in the process. And if that was not the goal of the review, when would patient representatives have an opportunity to weigh in and help shape the content of future RFP processes. There was interest expressed in a further discussion about how innovation in product development can be encouraged as well.

These matters will be discussed by Canadian Blood Services' executive team and subsequent conversations will take place.

**UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES**

David Lehberg invited members to share their key upcoming events and opportunities for collaboration.

Specific opportunities were captured and will be followed up on by the appropriate staff.

**CLOSE**

Before closing the meeting, Dr. Kevin Glasgow thanked the members for their contributions and their candor.

**Meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm.**