



The Chair in Transgender Studies | The Transgender Archives

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28 NOV 2018

Minister of Health of Canada
70 Colombine Driveway
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Ottawa, Ontario
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To: The Honourable Ginette Petitpas-Taylor, PC, MP
Cc: Simon Kennedy, Deputy Minister, Health Canada
Pierre Sabourin, Assistant Deputy Minister, Health Products and Food Branch
Cathy Parker, Acting Director General, Biologics & Genetic Therapies Directorate, Health Canada
Dr. Graham Sher, CEO, Canadian Blood Services
Don Lapierre, Canadian Blood Services.
Re: Letter of support for submission to Health Canada

Dear Honourable Ginette Petitpas-Taylor,

I currently hold the position of world's only [Chair in Transgender Studies](#) at the [University of Victoria](#). I write this letter in support of the [Canadian Blood Services'](#) submission to [Health Canada](#) to alter the blood donation policy for men who have sex with men.

The 3-month time-based deferral is a policy change that is timely and a positive step. Once implemented, I would expect and support further steps to be taken to alter the deferral to become a gender-neutral screening policy. I appreciate the consultation approach that brought us to this point; and I believe that ongoing consultation will serve to increase general comfort levels and will allow individual Canadians and organizations to support Canadian Blood Services in its recruitment efforts.

Additionally, I see this change as having a positive impact on younger generations who are dedicated to issues of social justice, therefore potentially increasing blood supply from that cohort. It is my belief that that this proposed policy change is aligned with the government's commitment to following an evidence-based approach and its prioritization of research and science. I hope to see Health Canada support this needed policy change.

Best,
Aaron Devor, PhD, FSSS, FSTLHE
Chair in Transgender Studies
Founder & Academic Director, the Transgender Archives

