

# For-Profit Plasma Clinic in Moncton

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**NB Health Coalition**

# Canadian Blood Scandal

- More than 30,000 Canadians are infected with hepatitis C and 2,000 people with HIV.
- Estimated 8,000 Canadians will die.
- Justice Krever Inquiry – Canadian Blood Services replaced Canadian Red Cross.

# Canadian Blood Services

- *Plasma, just like whole blood, is a public resource that must be safeguarded for Canadians.*
- *Long-term security of the plasma supply for immune globulin (Ig) can only be achieved through increased plasma collection by the publicly funded and publicly accountable **not-for-profit blood** system operated by Canadian Blood Services. (News release, January 24, 2017).*

# World Health Organization

*Recommended July 2016*

- *Collection of blood, plasma and other blood components from low-risk, regular, **voluntary unpaid donors*** • (<http://www.who.int/media/centre/factsheets/fs279/en/>)

# Canadian Plasma Resources

- For-profit company.
- Parent company - ExaPharma, owned and operated by the Riahi family (Iran).
- Business partnership with Botest AG, a German pharmaceutical company ( 13 plasma collections centres in Europe and 22 in the US) Revenue 2015: \$825,6 million.

# Canadian Plasma Resources

- 2012 - Oppened two clinics in Ontario close to a Toronto men's shelter and a Hamilton methadone clinic
- 2014 - Government of Ontatio passed a *Voluntary Blood Donations Act*. Both clinics were closed
- 2016- CPR opened a for-profit centre in Saskatoon.
- 2017 Alberta passed a Voluntary Blood Donation legislation.
- Quebec has banned the sale of human blood or plasma.*

# Canadian Plasma Resources

- **2017 – CPR opens a clinic in Moncton**
- **Target clients:**
  - ✓ – **Students** (Université de Moncton, Crandall University, Mount Alison University, Community Colleges, Oulton College, High Schools).
  - ✓ **People living in poverty.**
  - ✓ **General public.**
- Pay: \$25 Visa gift card. Frequent donors: Bonuses: Super Hero Rewards, monthly draws, etc.
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# Conclusion

If we accept a for-profit company like Canadian Plasma Resources, it will:

- Affect the volunteer aspect of our blood and plasma collection system.
- Not help our national supply of plasma.
- Exploit Canadians for profits.





# Solutions

- ☐ **Keep our blood and plasma donation system voluntary.**
- ☐ **Increase the amount of plasma collected.**
- ☐ **Increase public awareness of our needs.**
- ☐ **Province pass a Voluntary Blood Donations Act.**