

# Canadian Hemophilia Society Involvement in Canada's Blood System

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**Background:** The Canadian Hemophilia Society (CHS) has a long history of involvement in Canada's blood system, a role that expanded greatly following the tainted blood tragedy of the 1980s. The CHS lobbied for creation of the *Commission of Inquiry into the Blood System in Canada* (the Krever Commission) in 1993 and had legal standing throughout the four years of the inquiry. Following the publication of the Krever Commission findings, CHS played an integral role in the creation of the reformed blood system in 1998, operated by Canadian Blood Services (CBS) and Héma-Québec. During the 2000s, CHS obtained representation on both the CBS and Héma-Québec Boards of Directors and on many national and provincial blood safety committees. This helped CHS to develop greater expertise in broader blood policy, raise concerns of the bleeding disorder community at the highest level of decision-making, and communicate with recipients during a period in which faith in the blood system was being restored.

**300 Years of Experience:** CHS provided expertise throughout the 2000s to the WFH Blood Safety, Supply and Availability Committee and participated in all WFH Global Forums. CHS has sustained this involvement through its own Blood Safety and Supply Committee with over 300 years combined experience in blood system issues.

**Mandate of Blood Safety and Supply Committee:** To advise the Board of Directors on developments in...

- blood, blood products and their alternatives;
- factor replacement therapy for hemophilia, von Willebrand disease and rare factor deficiencies;
- new ways of delivering factor therapy;
- gene therapy;
- transfusion medicine as it relates to the safety of the blood supply.

**Product Selection:** CHS served on the national *Selection Advisory Committee* in 1996, 2001, 2008 and 2012 to advise Canadian Blood Services and Héma-Québec, who purchase blood products for Canadian hospitals, on toll fractionation and selection of factor concentrates for the Canadian marketplace.

**CHS Blood Policy:** CHS maintains an up-to-date blood policy on all issues of affecting the safety and supply of blood products and their alternatives. See <http://www.hemophilia.ca/en/about-the-chs/public-affairs/chs-policy-on-blood--blood-products-and-their-alternatives/>

## 2008-2010 REPORT CARD ON CANADA'S BLOOD SYSTEM



Canadian Hemophilia Society  
Help Stop the Bleeding

PREPARED BY THE  
Blood Safety and Supply Committee  
OF THE  
Canadian Hemophilia Society

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**Report Cards on the Blood System:** To report to recipients and the public on progress in reforming the blood system and providing quality service to Canadians, CHS published *A Report Card on Canada's Blood System* in 1999, 2002, 2004, 2007 and 2010. See <http://www.hemophilia.ca/en/safe--secure-blood-supply/report-cards-on-canada-s-blood-system/>

