

June 19, 2020

The Honourable Jason Kenney, MLA
Premier of Alberta
Office of the Premier
307 Legislature Building
10800-97 Avenue NW
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2B6



Dear Premier:

On behalf of the National Union of Public and General Employees (NUPGE), which represents over 390,000 workers across the country, I am writing to express concern with the recent notice of a private member's bill to repeal Alberta's Voluntary Blood Donations Act.

When the act was introduced in 2017, Alberta joined other provinces in banning the practice of paying donors for their blood and plasma. Repealing the act would be a step backwards.

It would directly contravene the findings of the 1997 Royal Commission of Inquiry on the Blood System in Canada (Krever Commission). The Krever Commission was unequivocal that blood is a public resource and that donors should not be paid.

NUPGE strongly opposes a for-profit collection model. We believe that Canadians do not want to risk another tainted-blood scandal and that for-profit corporations should not be allowed to undermine our voluntary, donation-based system.

We urge you to oppose the bill that would repeal the Voluntary Blood Donations Act. Please continue to protect the safety of the blood supply and the integrity of the voluntary collection system.

Sincerely,

Larry Brown
President

cc: Bert Blundon, Secretary-Treasurer
National Executive Board

