



Canadian Blood Services
Société canadienne du sang

1800 Alta Vista Avenue
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www.blood.ca www.sang.ca

December 10, 2015

Ms. Lanre Tunji-Ajayi
President
Sickle Cell Disease Association of Canada
Unit 34, 260 Adelaide St. East
Toronto, ON M5A 1N1

Dear Ms. Tunji-Ajayi,

Thank you for your continued interest in collaborating with Canadian Blood Services to re-engage those who were previously deferred from donating blood. We also look forward to eventually convincing Health Canada to align the spousal and sexual partner deferral for people who were born in or have visited African countries on the deferral list. To that end, we will continue to raise this issue at every opportunity available.

I am also encouraged by the next steps we discussed during our Nov. 27, 2015 telephone meeting with my colleagues Don Lapierre and Chris Brennan. Though we have already sent out letters to most previously deferred donors, any promotion your organization can offer would be invaluable. However, it is important to bear in mind that anyone who has previously been deferred for having had malaria would still be deferred.

Your suggestion of hosting a blood donor clinic targeting second generation and beyond in June 2016 is another example of SCDAC's willingness to assist in reaching out to your network to support a safe and adequate supply of blood products for those in need. As we discussed, Chris Brennan will follow up with you to discuss logistics of a planning meeting in January 2016. SCDAC continues to be valued as a key stakeholder group with which we collaborate.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.

Kind regards,

Mindy Goldman, MD, FRCP(C)
Medical Director, Donor & Clinical Services
Canadian Blood Services

cc: Chris Brennan, Stakeholder Relations, Canadian Blood Services
Don Lapierre, Stakeholder Relations, Canadian Blood Services



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Dec. 16, 2015

Lanre Tunji-Ajayi
President
Sickle Cell Disease Association of Canada
Unit 34, 260 Adelaide Street East
Toronto ON M5A 1N1

Dear Ms. Tunji-Ajayi,

On behalf of Canadian Blood Services' board of directors, I am writing to thank you for your presentation at our meeting in Toronto on Dec. 3.

We appreciate the perspective you brought, and share your desire to continue to work with Health Canada to seek approval for the removal of the permanent deferral for spouses of donors from Togo and Cameroon.

I understand plans are in the works to schedule a meeting in early 2016 to discuss some of the ways we can work together to achieve our common goals. As you so rightly put it, our two organizations truly have much to gain by working collaboratively.

Thank you again for bringing this issue to the board; we appreciated hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Leah Hollins
Chair, Board of Directors