

## LIBERAL GOVERNMENT'S CASH GRAB COMPOUNDING CANADA'S WORST PUBLIC HEALTH DISASTER

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**March 23, 2016** – In direct contradiction to the promise made by the Liberal Party of Canada during the 2015 election campaign not to attempt to recover the quarter-billion dollar surplus in the Trust Fund for the 1986-1990 Hepatitis C Settlement Agreement, the Attorney General of Canada has requested that the entire surplus be allocated to “Canada.”

Given the many unmet needs, and as the fund was created with a predetermined amount, and not based on the total projected needs of class members, allocation of the surplus to enhance benefits to class members according to the spirit of the original settlement should be at the core of the position of the Government of Canada.

It is our view that no portion of the Trust Fund's projected surplus should be returned to any level of government at this time. The recommendation to allow applications from those infected who missed the first claim deadline should also be supported by the Government of Canada.

The orders approving the settlement allow the Joint Committee, which has the mandate to implement the 1986-1990 Hepatitis C Settlement Agreement and to supervise the ongoing administration of claims, and the governments to apply to the courts when there is a surplus. The courts have discretion to decide what to do with the surplus in light of the recommendations, including deciding that all or a portion of it should be kept in the Trust Fund. Applications regarding the surplus will be considered by the courts at a Joint Hearing that will take place in Toronto on June 20-22, 2016.

We strongly object to the surplus being paid out to the federal government. We strongly support the Joint Committee's Notice of Motion to enhance the benefits to claimants.

To know more about this issue, please consult the following documents:

Press release from the Canadian Hemophilia Society, *Liberal Government's quarter-billion dollar broken promise that no one talks (or knows) about*

Comprehensive Q&A document on the overall issue

### For more information

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### ENDORSED BY ...

ANKORS; Canadian Association of Hepatology Nurses (CAHN); Canadian Hemophilia Society (CHS); Canadian Liver Foundation; Canadian Society for International Health (CSIH); CATIE; the Coalition Action Hepatitis Canada; Heart of Richmond AIDS Society; Hep C BC; the JOINT PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE ON HEPATITIS C (*Action Santé Travesti(e)s transexuel(le)s du Québec – ASTTeQ; Aids Community Care Montreal - ACCM Montréal; A.R.C.H.E de l'Estrie; l'Association Québécoise pour la promotion de la santé des personnes utilisatrices de drogues - AQPSUD; Bureau régional d'action sida - BRAS Outaouais; Bureau régional d'information en santé sexuelle - BRISS Côte-Nord; CACTUS Montréal; Centre Associatif Polyvalent d'Aide Hépatite C - CAPAHC; Centre femmes aux trois A - CF 3A Québec; Centre d'intervention et de prévention en toxicomanie de l'Outaouais - CIPTO; Centre Sida Amitié - CSA; Dopamine Montréal; Fondation d'Aide Directe Sida Montréal - FADSM; Groupe d'entraide à l'intention des personnes séropositives itinérantes et toxicomanes - GEIPSI Montréal; Hépatites Ressources Trois-Rivières; Intervention Régionale & Information sur le Sida - IRIS Estrie; Mouvement d'Aide et d'Information Sida Bas-Saint-Laurent - M.A.IN.S. BSL; Plein milieu Montréal; Point de Repères Québec; Portail VIH/SIDA du Québec Montréal; REZO Montréal; Sidaction Mauricie; Société canadienne de l'hémophilie Section Québec - SCHQ; Spectre de rue Montréal; Stella, l'amie de Maimie Montréal; Toxic-Actions Lac-St-Jean; Travail de rue action communautaire - TRAC Verdun; L'unité d'intervention mobile l'Anonyme Montréal); Kootenay Hep C Support Group; Pacific Hepatitis C Network (PHCN); Queen West Community Health; Sanguen Health Centre; Uzima Women Relief Group International.*