



Canadian Hemophilia Society
Help Stop the Bleeding
Société canadienne de l'hémophilie
Arrêtons l'hémorragie

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CANADIAN HEMOPHILIA SOCIETY RESPONDS TO
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING
PRE-1986, POST-1990 HEPATITIS C COMPENSATION**

Montréal - July 25, 2006. Representatives of the Canadian Hemophilia Society (CHS) are pleased to learn that the federal government has announced a long-awaited compensation plan for Canadians who became infected with the hepatitis C virus (HCV) through the Canadian blood system prior to 1986 or after 1990. The CHS will be watching closely as the deal is put before the Courts for approval.

John Plater, Chair of the CHS Task Force on Hepatitis C and HIV said, "The CHS has always advocated for equal compensation for all who contracted hepatitis C through the blood supply, regardless of when they became infected. We know that this plan is not exactly the same as that which already exists for people who became infected between 1986 and 1990. However, the total amount of money to be set aside in the pre-86 - post-90 compensation fund and the number of people involved are similar. As with that previous settlement, it will be up to each individual, once the plan has been approved by the Courts, to determine if it is in his/her best interests."

Mr. Plater added, "It is unfortunate that the process has taken so long. This highlights the need for a comprehensive Blood Injury Compensation Scheme (BICS) as proposed by the CHS several years ago."

The CHS also believes that it is important to recognize that no amount of money will ever compensate for those who are no longer with us and for the suffering and the loss of health experienced by thousands.

Approximately 5,000 to 6,000 people who were infected through tainted blood outside the 86-90 window could file claims for compensation.

Profile of the CHS

The Canadian Hemophilia Society is a non-profit organization, striving since 1953 to improve the health and quality of life for all people with inherited bleeding disorders, and to find a cure. To find out more about hemophilia and other bleeding disorders, visit the CHS Website, www.hemophilia.ca, or call toll-free: 1-800-668-2686.

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