



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

CANADIAN HEMOPHILIA SOCIETY WELCOMES DETAILS OF PRE-86, POST-90 HEPATITIS C SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

Montreal – December 15, 2006 – The Canadian Hemophilia Society (CHS) welcomed news of the details of the pre-1986/post-1990 hepatitis C settlement agreement released today.

“People have been anxiously waiting for details of the compensation deal since it was announced this summer,” said John Plater, Chairperson of the CHS Hepatitis C Task Force. “They will be relieved to finally learn what they can expect in terms of financial help.”

Several steps remain in the process, including scrutiny and eventual approval by Courts in four provinces with class-action legislation: Quebec, Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia. “We will follow the legal process closely,” said Mr. Plater. “It is there that those affected will be able to provide their feedback on the deal.”

The Canadian Hemophilia Society has been involved in efforts to fight for just compensation for injuries suffered by recipients of tainted blood since the mid-1980s. “This long drawn-out process underscores the need to develop a fair and rapid compensation system for blood injury across the country,” he added. In November 2006, the Quebec government introduced Bill 45, legislation to provide for blood injury compensation on a no-fault basis.

“Even more important,” said Mr. Plater, “is that all efforts are made to ensure the safety of the blood system now and in the future. Tragedies like HIV and hepatitis C infection from blood and blood products must never happen again. The Canadian blood system must continue to introduce safety measures such as screening and testing as they become available. Solid science and the precautionary principle must always be the basis for decision-making.”

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.

- 30 -

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