



# Our Blood Counts

Plasma for Northern BC

May 19, 2026

City of Fort St. John: Her Worship Mayor Lilia Hansen and members of Council  
[info@fortstjohn.ca](mailto:info@fortstjohn.ca) [lhansen@fortstjohn.ca](mailto:lhansen@fortstjohn.ca)

**Subject: Supporting a Blood Plasma Donor Centre in Northern BC**

Dear Mayor Hansen:

On behalf of *Our Blood Counts*, we ask for Council's support in principle as we advocate for a Northern BC Blood Plasma Donor Centre in Prince George on the traditional territory of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation.

Canada relies heavily on American donors and suppliers for medications from blood plasma. A plasma donor centre in Northern BC would help to address that critical deficiency. We ask for a letter of support to BC Minister of Health Josie Osborne ([HLTH.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:HLTH.Minister@gov.bc.ca)) and Canadian Blood Services (CBS) CEO Dr. Graham Sher ([graham.sher@blood.ca](mailto:graham.sher@blood.ca)), and possibly a resolution of support from Council. We also appreciate you and members of council signing and sharing our petition at [www.ourbloodcounts.com](http://www.ourbloodcounts.com).

**Canada's plasma shortage and the need for a Northern BC centre**

Plasma is processed into treatments for cancer, immune deficiencies, and blood disorders.<sup>1</sup> Canada collects about 30 percent of the plasma that our patients need. The majority of immune globulin (a key medication made from plasma) comes from the United States. CBS's expansion of plasma collection is expected to only meet 50 to 60 percent of national demand.<sup>2</sup>

Prince George had a blood donor centre from 1998 to 2015. The closest donor centres to Northern BC are in Kelowna, Metro Vancouver, or Alberta. Rural communities similar to Prince George such as Thunder Bay, Ontario now have plasma donor centres.<sup>3</sup> We believe Northern BC can play a role in supporting the CBS goal of securing a million new blood donors by 2030.

**Our advocacy and regional support**

Our Blood Counts is a group of donors, recipients, and advocates. Our petition has 4,200 signatures, with 90 percent of those signing saying they would be likely to donate at a regional blood plasma donor centre.

We have received resolutions and letters of support from the following organizations and elected officials:

- Lheidli T'enneh First Nation
- Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
- Regional District of Fraser Fort George
- Cariboo Regional District
- Village of Burns Lake
- Village of Fraser Lake
- District of Kitimat
- Village of Hazelton
- District of New Hazelton
- District of Mackenzie
- Village of McBride
- City of Prince George
- City of Prince Rupert
- City of Quesnel
- District of Stewart
- City of Terrace
- Village of Valemount
- District of Vanderhoof
- Sheldon Clare, MLA: Prince George- North Cariboo
- Kiel Giddens, MLA: Prince George- Mackenzie
- Sharon Hartwell, MLA: Bulkley Valley Stikine
- Claire Rattée, MLA: Skeena
- John Rustad, MLA: Nechako- Lakes
- Todd Doherty, MP: Cariboo- Prince George
- North Central Local Government Association (2025 Annual Convention)
- Northern Health Authority
- Prince George Hospice and Palliative Care Society
- BC Nurses' Union

### Canadian Blood Services' response

CBS has declined our call for a Northern BC centre, citing population and unspecified logistical concerns. We believe their analysis overlooks regional capacity <sup>4</sup> and Prince George's proximity to Calgary and Vancouver testing facilities. Several petitioners from across Northern BC have noted they would include blood donation in their regional travels should a centre return. We made these points in a presentation to the CBS Board last spring: <https://tiny.cc/cbsbo2506> and continue to do so in our correspondence

### Why Council's support matters

We believe Council's support would show Northern leadership and unity toward addressing the need for specialized blood products in BC and across Canada. We would be grateful for your support. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

*Our Blood Counts:* Irina Doering PhD, Mark Karjaluo (chair), Alan Kavanaugh, Suman Kumar, Ankur Patel

### Sources:

1. Canadian Blood Services, **Plasma for Life: What is plasma?** (undated) <https://www.blood.ca/en/plasma>
2. Canadian Blood Services, **Our commitment to increasing plasma sufficiency in Canada** (undated) <https://www.blood.ca/en/about-us/media/plasma/plasma-sufficiency>
3. Alicia Anderson, Thunder Bay's plasma centre celebrates grand opening, TB News Watch, April 23 2025 <https://www.tbnewswatch.com/local-news/thunder-bays-plasma-centre-celebrates-grand-opening-10566304>
4. Sources include:
  - a. Statistics Canada, **Population estimates, July 1, by census metropolitan area and census agglomeration, 2021 boundaries, Jan 14th 2026** <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tb1/en/tv.action?pid=1710014801>
  - b. Northern Health, **Our Communities:** <https://www.northernhealth.ca/our-communities>