**Motion to Acknowledge the Role of Blood Collection Services on Campus and to Encourage the Continued Advancement of Non-Discriminatory Policies**

**Whereas,** AUS Legislative Council passed a motion during its last assembly (Feb. 12, 2020) resolving to “…condemn the presence of any and all policies which discriminate against the LGBTQ+ community on campus, including those currently being enacted by Hema-Quebec and the Provincial and Federal governments (See Appendix A).

**Whereas**, blood transfusions, lifesaving medical procedures that ensure the health and wellness of our communities, are only made possible in Canada by donations collected by Canadian Blood Services and Hema-Quebec,

**Whereas**, the national blood inventory is chronically threatened by short supply due to a lack of donations, [[[1]](#endnote-1)]

**Whereas**, Canadian Blood Services (CBS) and Hema-Quebec previously lobbied Health Canada to reduce the lifetime ban on blood donations by men who have sex with men (MSM) to 12 months, and were recently successful in reducing that ban to 3 months, [[[2]](#endnote-2)][[[3]](#endnote-3)]

**Whereas**, CBS and Hema-Quebec continue to support and advocate for non-discriminatory, science-based blood collection regulations, [[[4]](#endnote-4)] [[[5]](#endnote-5)]

**Whereas**, CBS and Hema-Quebec must observe and respect federal law and regulations in the execution of their blood collection operations, as mandated by Health Canada, [[[6]](#endnote-6)]

**Whereas**, though Health Canada develops their blood collection policy based on science-based recommendations from NGOs such as CBS and Hema-Quebec, Health Canada is ultimately responsible for developing and implementing blood collection standards, [ii][iii][vi][[[7]](#endnote-7)]

**Whereas**, blood drives on campus provide significant volumes of blood donation, which facilitate an essential medical service and save lives,

**Whereas**, there is precedent for concern regarding the threat to blood drives on campus due to a 2006 referendum which sought to prohibit blood collection services on SSMU property in protest of the MSM policy, [[[8]](#endnote-8)]

**Whereas**, organizations such as Hema-Quebec are actively misgendering trans women as men for the purposes of blood donation

**Be it resolved,** that the AUS Legislative Council acknowledges the role of blood collection organizations such as CBS and Hema-Quebec in saving lives and maintaining healthy communities, and thanks them for their services.

**Be it resolved**, that AUS Legislative Council recognize the progress and continued effort CBS and Hema-Quebec are making through their science-based research initiatives to secure the right for MSM to donate blood and encourages these services to continue to appeal to Health Canada to reduce the ban on MSM until it is entirely eliminated.

**Be it resolved**, that through approval of this motion, AUS makes every attempt to make blood collection services feel welcome, comfortable, and safe on campus, recognizing the impact student blood donations have in saving lives and the role blood collection services play in this process.

**Be it resolved,** that AUS respectfully informs CBS and Hema-Quebec of their concerns regarding the misgendering of donors and asks for an explanation, further encouraging them end such discriminatory and hurtful practices.

Moved By,

Mathieu Hergett-Rozier, SLUM VP External

Seconded By:

Brent Jamsa, CSAUS VP External

Appendix A

Supporting evidence

Endnotes

1. A piece from The Toronto Star regarding the chronic nature of blood shortages in Canada:

<https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2017/08/11/why-canadas-blood-donation-problem-persists.html> [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. Statement by the Minister of Health regarding the reduction in the MSM ban:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2019/05/statement-from-the-minister-of-health-on-further-reducing-barriers-for-blood-donation-by-men-who-have-sex-with-men.html?fbclid=IwAR0Z7fCaxdC-421nCl_nBMfXu9-44W1bw2UEXHzQLikP1WgDuglNS-ZaMHk>

 [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. Canadian Blood Services on reduction of the MSM ban:

<https://blood.ca/en/about-us/media/newsroom/blood-donation-waiting-period-for-men-who-have-sex-with-men-reduced-to-three-months> [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. A list of MSM related research projects funded by Canadian Blood Services:

<https://www.blood.ca/en/about-us/media/men-who-have-sex-men/msm-research-projects?fbclid=IwAR2H8LQGd9nMhjSs1ZEg_bEokvasrLchipwtiUgMBwbXBtcZlmIQObMkg8Q>

 [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. Hema-Quebec’s Ongoing research into MSM donations (see page 47):

<https://www.hema-quebec.qc.ca/userfiles/file/RA-2018-2019/Hema-Quebec_2018-2019_Annual_Report.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1NeaMdqRKy4qE3NIG3hCSOTsFjBb2spsK_rI1VE2dnSfezla7dLqAEHCs>

 [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. CBS Policy regarding MSM donations:

<https://blood.ca/en/blood/am-i-eligible/men-who-have-sex-men?fbclid=IwAR2PSJuaQvRavJ8SPJM7zpP4J-5FTkrUfAv91uucSqu05ywgIJ-GTaYLJQ0>

 [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
7. A description of MSM policy developments by the Canadian Centre for Gender & Sexual Diversity:

<https://ccgsd-ccdgs.org/addressing-msm-donor-eligibility-policy/?fbclid=IwAR0tWP9Xsr1zDZ-JoHMzY0V39CbaUj8k7dLcc-Cy8vRI8WaYKzeIWS5xVzM> [↑](#endnote-ref-7)
8. A news story concerning SSMU’s 2006 prohibition of blood drives:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/mcgill-student-group-bans-blood-drives-over-questionnaire-1.598993>

Appendix B

A Copy of the Motion Passed on February 12th

**Motion Condemning the Presence of Homophobic and Transphobic Blood Donation Policies on McGill Campus**

WHEREAS, a blood drive organized by Hema-Quebec is currently taking place on McGill campus this Wednesday, February 12, 2020,

WHEREAS, the current policy of Blood Services Canada and Hema-Quebec does not allow for accepting blood donations from men who have sex with men,

WHEREAS, organizations such as Hema-Quebec actively misgender trans women as men for the purposes of blood donation,

WHEREAS, these practices further the creation of stigmas surrounding the LGBTQ+ community as “risky” or “unsafe” which are negative to the mental health and wellbeing of LGBTQ+ students in the Faculty of Arts,

WHEREAS, there have been zero documented cases in Canada of a person becoming infected or have their physical well-being negatively impacted by blood donated by a member of the LGBTQ+ community via these blood donation channels,

WHEREAS, members of the LGBTQ+ community facing discrimination on campus on account of their sexual or gender identities is an unacceptable practice that the AUS is mandated to stand against,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, through approval of this motion, the AUS Legislative Council condemn the presence of any and all policies which discriminate against the LGBTQ+ community on campus, including those currently being enacted by Hema-Quebec and the Provincial and Federal governments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, this condemnation be made clear in a statement drafted by the AUS Executives and sent out in the next upcoming listserv, with a list of resources available to LGBTQ+ students negatively impacted by homophobic, transphobic, or other forms of discrimination, such as Union for Gender Empowerment, Queer McGill, the SSMU Equity Commissioners, or etcetera. This statement may also make clear the support of the AUS both for the necessity of blood donation efforts, and for an end to all practices of unacceptable discrimination.

SIGNED,

Dalton Liggett (HSA)

Andreas Koch (WIMESSA)

Mo Rajji (RSUS)

Matt Gery (PSA)

Alexandra Millar (BASiC)

Moved by: HSA

Seconded by: WIMESSA

 [↑](#endnote-ref-8)