

Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills

Final Report **Bill 204, *Voluntary Blood Donations*** ***Repeal Act***

Thirtieth Legislature
Second Session
July 2020



Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE BILLS AND PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS

July 2020

**To the Honourable Nathan Cooper
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
of the Province of Alberta**

I have the honour of submitting, on behalf of the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills, the Committee's final report containing recommendations on Bill 204, *Voluntary Blood Donations Repeal Act*, for consideration by the Legislative Assembly of Alberta.

Sincerely,

[original signed]

Mike Ellis, MLA
Chair, Standing Committee
on Private Bills and
Private Members' Public Bills

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**MEMBERS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE BILLS AND
PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS**

30th Legislature, Second Session

Mike Ellis, MLA
Chair
Calgary-West (UCP)

Joseph R. Schow, MLA
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Cardston-Siksika (UCP)

Michaela L. Glasgow, MLA
Brooks-Medicine Hat (UCP)

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Edmonton-Decore (NDP)

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Drumheller-Stettler (UCP)

Jeremy P. Nixon, MLA
Calgary-Klein (UCP)

Janis Irwin, MLA
Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood (NDP)

Rakhi Pancholi, MLA
Edmonton-Whitemud (NDP)

Nathan T. Neudorf, MLA
Lethbridge-East (UCP)

Lori Sigurdson, MLA
Edmonton-Riverview (NDP)

R.J. Sigurdson, MLA
Highwood (UCP)

Members also in attendance on July 14 and July 20, 2020:

Sarah Hoffmann, MLA
Edmonton-Glenora (NDP)

Tany Yao, MLA
Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo (UCP)

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Bill 204, *Voluntary Blood Donations Repeal Act*, was introduced and received first reading on July 8, 2020.

2.0 ORDER OF REFERENCE

Pursuant to Standing Order 74.11:

- (1) After a public Bill other than a Government Bill has been read a first time, the Bill stands referred to the Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills Committee.
- (2) The Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills Committee shall report back to the Assembly within 8 sitting days of the day on which the Bill was referred to the Committee.*

3.0 COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

As part of the Committee's review of Bill 204 Committee meetings were held on July 14 and July 20, 2020. At the meeting on July 14, 2020, the sponsor of Bill 204, Tany Yao, Member for Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo, made a presentation on the Bill to the Committee, and the Committee received a technical briefing from the Ministry of Health on the Bill. On July 20 six stakeholders made oral presentations to the Committee. The Committee received two written submissions from invited stakeholders and two other written submissions about the Bill.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Pursuant to Standing Order 74.2 the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills recommends

that Bill 204, *Voluntary Blood Donations Repeal Act*, proceed.

* Due date suspended pursuant to Government Motion 10, agreed to on March 17, 2020.

APPENDIX A: MINORITY REPORT

The NDP Caucus Members of the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills (the "Committee") disagree with the Committee's recommendation that Bill 204, *Voluntary Blood Donations Repeal Act*, proceed.

In this Committee, the NDP Caucus Members generally support the rights of Private Members to present their bills to the Legislative Assembly for debate. However, where it is clear that the Bill before the Committee for consideration as tabled in the Legislative Assembly does not address the intent of the Bill as presented by the Private Member sponsoring the Bill or based on the information provided by stakeholders, the Members of the Committee should recommend against the Bill proceeding.

The Private Member sponsoring Bill 204 indicated in his presentation that the intent of Bill 204 was to increase the available supply of blood - specifically, plasma - in Alberta.

It was clear from the two Committee meetings on this Bill that there are concerns from all Members about increasing blood supply in Alberta, specifically about plasma. However, it was also clear from the presentations of the stakeholders that a complete repeal of *Voluntary Blood Donations Act* as proposed by Bill 204, will not in fact increase the plasma supply in Alberta or even in Canada. The stakeholder presentations indicated that while permitting paid plasma donation could increase the collection of plasma in Alberta, currently all of that collected plasma would be sent outside of Canada and Bill 204 included no provisions, measures, or strategies that would ensure that plasma would come back to help Canadians or Albertans.

On the other hand, the CEO of Canadian Blood Services, Dr. Graham Sher, articulated clearly in his presentation that Canadian Blood Services has an obligation, set out by its mandate from the federal government, to ensure a "security of supply for Canadian patients", while corporations entering Alberta to collect blood do not. Further, having private, for-profit, blood collection sites enter in Alberta will likely result in less blood to be donated at Canadian Blood Services facilities, such as the new facility scheduled to open in Lethbridge. This new Alberta facility, along with others in Canada, are part of Canadian Blood Services' plan to move Canada closer to self-sufficiency in the collection of plasma.

In addition, one of the stakeholders invited to present by the UCP Government Members on the Committee, Ms Silvia Marchesin, President of the Network of Rare Blood Disorder Organizations, stated that they did not support paying donors for whole blood collection. Bill 204 would allow for paid collection of whole blood product as it is a complete repeal of the *Voluntary Blood Donations Act*. Again, this suggests that Bill 204 requires further consideration and amendment before being ready to proceed to the Legislative Assembly.

There are ways that the blood collection system in Canada could be reformed. There are amendments that could be made to the existing *Voluntary Blood Donations Act* which could lead

to an interesting debate on how to improve our system. Bill 204, however is a short Bill which simply repeals the existing system and fails to increase the supply of plasma in Alberta.

For these reasons, the NDP Caucus of the Committee has submitted this minority report.

APPENDIX B: LIST OF ORAL PRESENTERS

Organization	Name
Canadian Blood Services	Dr. Graham Sher, CEO
Private Citizen	Dr. Peter Jaworski
BloodWatch	Ms Kat Lanteigne, Executive Director
Canadian Immunodeficiencies Patient Organization	Ms Whitney Goulstone, Executive Director
Canadian Hemophilia Society, B.C. Chapter	Mr. Curtis Brandell, President
Network of Rare Blood Disorder Organizations, Alberta	Ms Silvia Marchesin, President

APPENDIX C: LIST OF WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS FROM STAKEHOLDERS

Organization
Canadian Blood Services
Network of Rare Blood Disorder Organizations, Alberta

