



**Black female  
donors needed**  
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HÉMA-QUÉBEC

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

# Vital. Unique. Irreplaceable.

The biological products that Héma-Québec collects, processes, qualifies and distributes are unique and vital; as are its donors, volunteers and partners.



Photo: Marc Couture

As of right now, blood is still irreplaceable: a human being has to be willing to give some to another in order for life to continue, despite the major advances made by modern medicine in countless treatments.

A compatible stem cell donor must be matched with a recipient in order to combat certain deadly diseases; an often hard compatibility to find, despite the 27 million people signed up in registries worldwide.

Human tissues enable life to continue. Cornea donations give back vision and hope to hundreds of people in Québec each year; people who, without the generosity of donors, would be forced to live with a severe handicap.

Mother's milk helps improve the chances of survival of very premature infants and helps limit the possibility of contracting a serious infection affecting their digestive system. Once again, this is thanks to the generosity of mothers who donate.

All these products of human origin are available because individuals generously chose to share a part of their health and body.

It has been a few months now since I joined Héma-Québec as President and CEO. The mission of this organization dedicated to the gift of life was one of the key factors that motivated my decision to take on this new professional challenge.

I have spent time meeting with the donors, volunteers, employees and partners who make fulfilling our mandate possible. Your commitment is inspiring.

You will realize this once again as you read this issue of our *Info Héma-Québec* bulletin. You will see that our work is evolving and adapting. Our presence in the regions is solidifying; our expertise is expanding beyond the borders of Canada.

But none of this would be possible without your irreplaceable contribution.

Thank you and hope to see you soon!

**Serge Maltais**

President and Chief Executive Officer

STEM CELL DONOR REGISTRY

# Record number of registrations

2014–2015 was an active year for the Stem Cell Donor Registry team. Campaigns initiated by the families of patients waiting for a compatible stem cell donor had a significant impact on the number of people signing up for the Registry. This phenomenon resulted in a significant increase in the workload of the Reference and Stem Cell Laboratory. Last year, Héma-Québec received and processed 25,946 registrations whereas it usually receives approximately 3,000 per year.

Although the enthusiasm for the Registry is excellent news for the patients who will need a stem cell transplant, this situation raises new issues for the organization, including the fact that only 42% of the mouth swab kits sent out were returned.

Héma-Québec has therefore stepped up its awareness raising activities to inform the public about stem cell donation and the importance of understanding the implication of registering. It also intends to continue its efforts to reduce the withdrawal rate. In addition to this challenge, there is also the issue of the under-representation of communities other than Caucasian in the Registry and that of HLA typing, which is evolving and becoming more complex every year. The objective to increase registration diversity was partially achieved; for example, following the campaign carried out by a patient of Asian origin, the proportion of Asian donors in the Registry increased from 0.9% to 4%. •

 **25,946**  
REGISTRATIONS  
RECEIVED IN 2014–2015

 **55,575**  
REGISTERED DONORS

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE PERFORMING THE BUCCAL SWAB.

STEP	INSTRUCTIONS
1	You will find below four cotton swabs and four identification labels. Write the collection date (dd/mm/yyyy), your name and your date of birth on each label.
2	As illustrated here, apply an identification label to each of the cotton swabs, around the plastic protector that covers the cotton tip.
3	Prepare to use the cotton swabs, one at a time, as follows: → One for the upper right cheek → One for the upper left cheek → One for the lower right cheek → One for the lower left cheek
4	Here are the steps to be repeated for each cotton swab: <b>A</b> Take a swab and open the protective plastic cap. Push the swab gently toward the tip so that the cotton tip is exposed. <b>Take care not to touch any other surface with the swab.</b> <b>B</b> Rub the inside of your cheek with the cotton tip for 20 to 30 seconds. Use the same amount of pressure as when brushing your teeth. <b>C</b> When done, carefully place the cotton swab inside the plastic protector. Close the cap tightly. <b>D</b> Insert each cotton swab in the foam insert below.
5	Indicate the collection date here: ..... → Collection date: DD / MM / YYYY
6	Verify your personal information below (last name, first name and date of birth) and correct it if necessary.
7	Close this cardboard containing the four cotton swabs. Insert it in the prepaid return envelope. Seal the envelope well and mail it to Héma-Québec as soon as possible.

**THE REGISTRY OF LIFE**

"My name is Priscille. I received a bone marrow transplant and several blood transfusions that completely changed my life. Thanks for helping to save lives!"

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION  
1-800-565-6635, ext. 5279  
www.hema-quebec.qc.ca




New sign-up kit.

## TESTIMONIAL

# Saved by plasma donors

Almost two years ago, Émilie Morneau-Guérin experienced the joy of becoming a mother, and the anguish of finding out that her son Éli, then three-months old, had Kawasaki syndrome, a serious heart disease.

“It was a true race against time to prevent an aneurism rupture. Luckily, the necessary product was available.”

– Émilie Morneau-Guérin

Louis



For information on plasma donation:  
[www.hema-quebec.qc.ca](http://www.hema-quebec.qc.ca), *Blood > Blood Donors > Donation Types* section

Éli with  
his mother,  
Émilie

This childhood disease generally appears before the age of 5 and affects the heart and coronary arteries. Most often, this syndrome weakens certain parts of the walls of the coronary arteries, leading to the development of a pocket on the inside of an artery called an aneurism. Blood clots can develop in the weakened areas, which could obstruct the coronary artery and even cause a heart attack. In Éli's case, it was inflammation of the membrane surrounding the heart that led to the diagnosis. "It was a true race against time to prevent an aneurism rupture," explains his mother, Émilie. "Luckily, the necessary product was available."

Immunoglobulin preparations were the product in question. Immunoglobulins are proteins found in plasma. They are mainly used in the treatment of certain blood cancers or diseases affecting the immune system. They were administered to Éli intravenously.

Plasma is the liquid component of blood that contains red blood cells, white blood cells and platelets. It makes up 55% of blood volume in humans. Fractionating plasma makes it possible to isolate and purify certain proteins, such as immunoglobulins, which are then used to make medications.

"It's thanks to plasma donations that Éli is healthy today. He will have to be followed for the rest of his life and avoid certain activities, but that's nothing compared to the complications that could have arisen had he not been treated," Émilie adds.

#### **A challenge for Québec**

To make medications such as the one given to Éli, you need plasma, and lots of it. While Québec fully meets its needs for fresh plasma transfused to patients, such is not the case for the plasma needed to make medications such as immunoglobulin solutions. Last year, 55,000 litres of plasma from Québec blood donations was used to make medications. Québec wants to collect 200,000 litres by 2020. Héma-Québec plans on achieving this primarily through a network of collection centres: the PLASMAVIE Plasma Donor Lounges (see pages 6 to 9).

Éli's mother also intends to help meet this challenge by raising awareness about plasma donation among as many people as possible. "I have been giving blood for a long time, but since my son Eli received immunoglobulin treatments, I have a better understanding of the importance of this gesture," she says. "I can now put a face to the lives saved thanks to these donations, and this is what compelled me to raise awareness about the cause among my friends and family." •

# Héma-Québec establishes itself in the regions



On September 17, Héma-Québec officially launched the activities of PLASMAVIE-GLOBULE in Saguenay.

## FIRST DOUBLE BANNER CENTRE

## OBJECTIVES

**16**   
COLLECTION BEDS  
12 PLASMA • 4 BLOOD

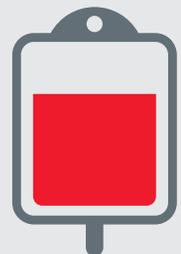
**25**   
JOBS AT OPENING  
40 IN ALL



NEARLY

**\$2M**  
INVESTMENT

**25,000**  
DONATIONS PER YEAR  
500/WEEK, 80/DAY



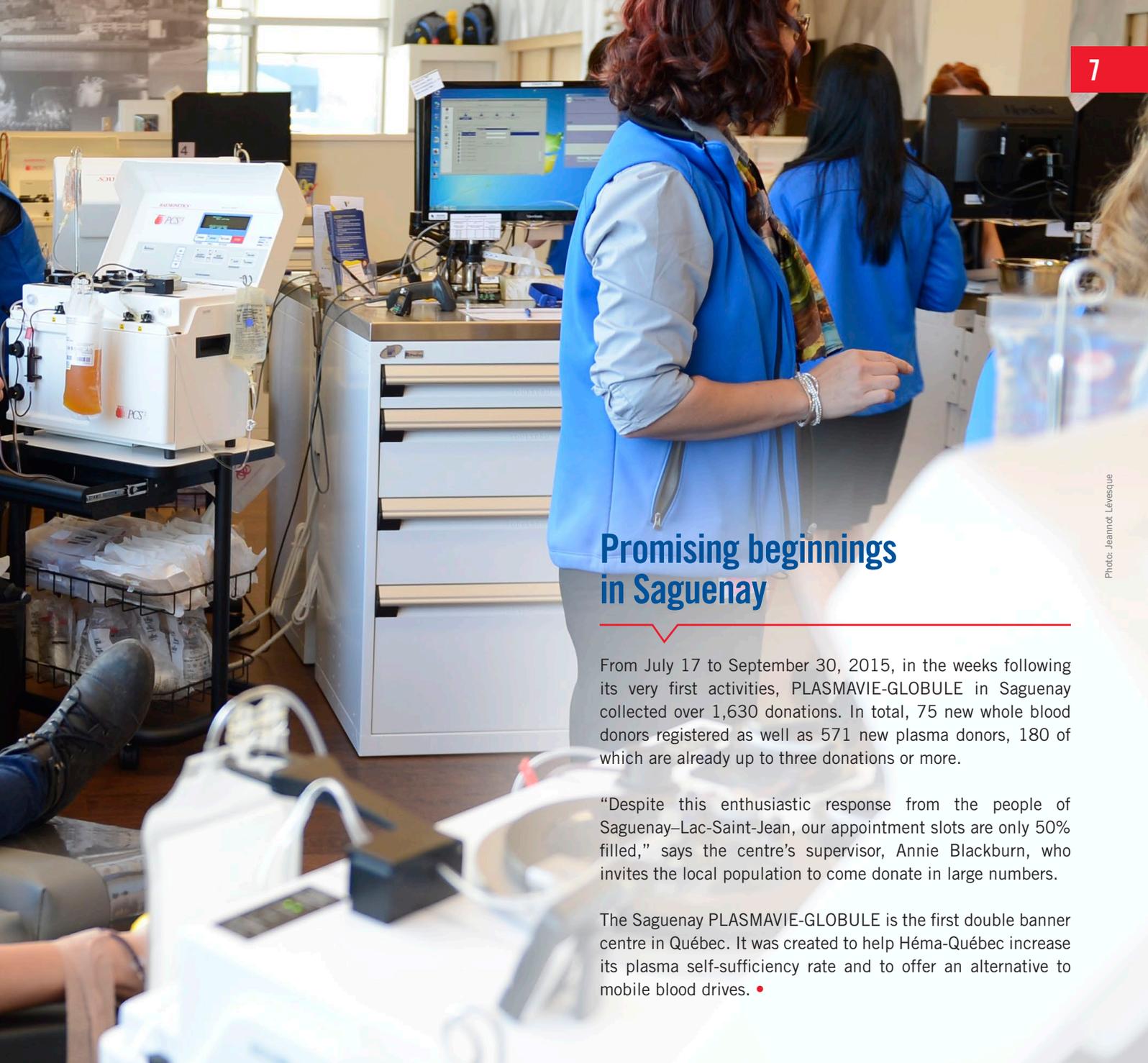


Photo: Jeannot Lévesque

## Promising beginnings in Saguenay

From July 17 to September 30, 2015, in the weeks following its very first activities, PLASMAVIE-GLOBULE in Saguenay collected over 1,630 donations. In total, 75 new whole blood donors registered as well as 571 new plasma donors, 180 of which are already up to three donations or more.

“Despite this enthusiastic response from the people of Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean, our appointment slots are only 50% filled,” says the centre’s supervisor, Annie Blackburn, who invites the local population to come donate in large numbers.

The Saguenay PLASMAVIE-GLOBULE is the first double banner centre in Québec. It was created to help Héma-Québec increase its plasma self-sufficiency rate and to offer an alternative to mobile blood drives. •

### WHY SAGUENAY?

This area’s population is very committed to the cause of blood donation



# 3.5%

GIVE BLOOD  
QUÉBEC AVERAGE: 3%



# 90

COLLECTION DAYS PER YEAR

# 15,000

DONORS PER YEAR

### TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT: 1-800-343-7264

## SAGUENAY

2096 Talbot Boulevard G7H 8B5

#### PLASMAVIE

Plasma donations **by appointment only**  
Monday-Friday: 7:45 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.  
Saturday: 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
Sunday: closed

#### GLOBULE

Blood donations **with or without appointment**  
Monday-Friday: 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Saturday: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Sunday: closed



René Lafrenière, pictured here giving plasma, with Angélique Bonenfant-Chamberland, Agent – Donor Services.

Photo: Jacques Monette

## Trois-Rivières: More arms are needed!

Héma-Québec must reach 13,500 donations at its Trois-Rivières PLASMAVIE Plasma Donor Lounge by March 31, 2016. However, with the deadline three and a half months away and only a little over a third of the objective reached, it is clear that Héma-Québec needs more arms in order for the Kruger street centre to achieve its target.

On October 31, 4,995 donations had been made, compared to the 7,875 donations planned. This represents a deficit of close to 3,000 donations, a number that will only keep growing unless a significant number of new donors decide to donate.

Last April, our supply planning team estimated that 650 new plasma donors would have to be recruited in a one-year span. *Opération 650* was therefore launched to recruit such a number of donors.

In November 2015, there was 400 new donors. It's a good start, but we also have to take into account the departure of some donors, whether due to exclusion or other circumstances. Héma-Québec is therefore appealing to donors

from Trois-Rivières, Bécancour, Shawinigan, Grand-Mère and Louiseville. With the PLASMAVIE Plasma Donor Lounge located near *Le Carrefour Trois-Rivières Ouest* shopping centre and Costco, Héma-Québec invites donors in the area to follow the example of a plasma donor from Bécancour, Gilles Carpentier, and take an hour out of their shopping trips or visits to Trois-Rivières to make a plasma donation. "Since you can donate once a week, I make a donation each time I go shopping in Trois-Rivières. It's simple, nice to meet people and most importantly, it saves lives," Mr. Carpentier says.

The annual objective of 13,500 donations at the Trois-Rivières centre is very important to provide patients with the medications made with the collected plasma. The needs are considerable. Héma-Québec will have to collect more than 200,000 litres of plasma per year by 2020 to meet these needs. Currently, 55,000 litres are collected by Héma-Québec. By reaching its objective of 13,500 donations, the Trois-Rivières PLASMAVIE would make it possible to supply approximately 10,000 litres of this precious blood component. •



For more information about PLASMAVIE Plasma Donor Lounges: [www.plasmavie.ca](http://www.plasmavie.ca)

## Héma-Québec recruiting in Sherbrooke

In our last edition, we announced the opening of a PLASMAVIE in Sherbrooke in the coming year. Today, we have the pleasure of unveiling the location of this centre, which will be part of the *Complexe Le Baron*. The space measures approximately 465 m<sup>2</sup> and is located at 3200 A King Street Ouest. The opening is set for the end of January 2016.

The objective of the Plasma Donor Lounge will be to collect 20,000 bags of plasma per year for medication manufacturing purposes. The centre will be able to accommodate up to 12 donors at a time and will employ some thirty people.

## A second PLASMAVIE-GLOBULE in Gatineau

In addition to the PLASMAVIE that is set to open in Sherbrooke, Héma-Québec will also open a second double banner centre in Gatineau in the first quarter of 2016. This PLASMAVIE-GLOBULE will employ some thirty people and include 16 collection chairs, 12 for plasma donations and 4 for whole blood donations.

The objective for this centre will be to collect 20,000 bags of plasma and 5,000 bags of whole blood per year. It will be located at 205 Bellehumeur Street, close to the *Promenades Gatineau*. To view our job offers, visit the *Careers* section of our Web site: [www.hema-quebec.qc.ca](http://www.hema-quebec.qc.ca)

### WHAT IS PLASMA USED FOR?

Plasma is the liquid part of blood in which three types of cells are suspended: red blood cells, white blood cells and platelets. It makes up 55% of the total blood volume and is composed of 90% water.

Plasma is used to make medications for patients with an immune deficiency or other illness, such as a neurological disorder. A portion of Québec plasma is sent for fractionation in order to isolate the plasma proteins used to manufacture medications.

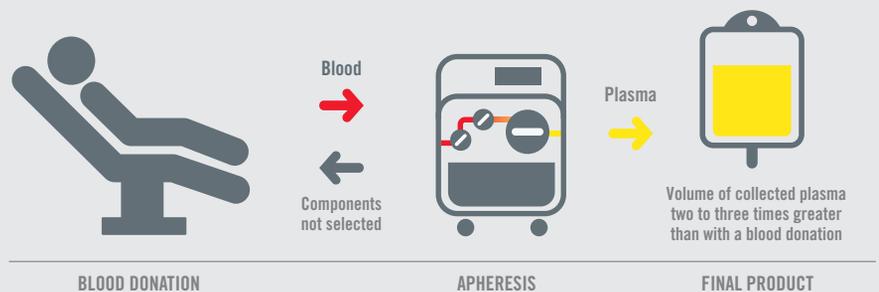
#### PLASMA PROTEINS

#### TREATMENTS

Immunoglobulins	Certain blood cancers and diseases affecting the immune system
Albumins	Liver diseases and serious burn victims
Clotting factors	Hemophilia

### COLLECTION OF PLASMA BY APHERESIS

Plasma collections are performed using an apheresis device that separates the plasma from the other blood components. The plasma is collected in a collection bag and the other components are returned to the donor.



### PROFIL SOUGHT?

A<sup>+</sup> B<sup>+</sup> AB<sup>+</sup> O<sup>+</sup>

Donors with blood types A+, B+, AB+ or O+ who want to give more often are particularly sought after. Height and weight restrictions apply for plasma donors.

To determine your eligibility: 1-800-847-2525.

### FREQUENCY

EVERY  
6  
DAYS  
UP TO 50 DONATIONS  
PER YEAR

**Build your career with us!**

[www.hema-quebec.qc.ca](http://www.hema-quebec.qc.ca), *Careers* section



# HUMAN TISSUES: EXPERTISE DEDICATED TO THE GIFT OF LIFE

The Héma-Québec Human Tissue Bank is the largest in Canada. It ranks first in terms of volume and variety of grafts offered.

**Héma-Québec's role as a supplier of human tissues:**

**RAISE AWARENESS**  
among the public and hospital stakeholders on the importance of recommending potential donors

**COLLECT**  
various tissues, while respecting the donor and their loved ones, and process them for an eventual transplant

**MEET THE NEEDS**  
of Quebecers by distributing human tissues safely to the various hospitals

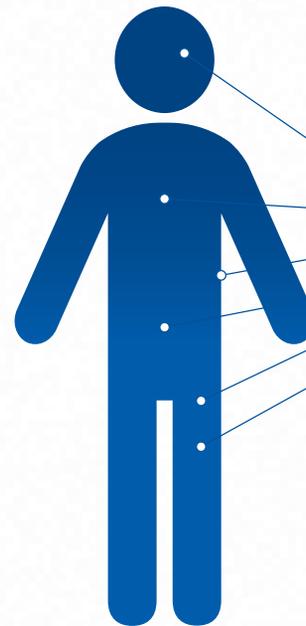
## HUMAN TISSUES IN QUÉBEC IN NUMBERS

(from April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 to March 31, 2015)

**In 2014–2015**

**4,080**  
TISSUES DISTRIBUTED TO HOSPITALS

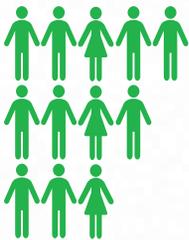
including **20%** in other Canadian provinces



**Héma-Québec collects the following human tissues:**

- Corneas
- Heart valves
- Skin tissues
- Abdominal aorta
- Veins and arteries
- Musculoskeletal tissues (ligaments, tendons, bone chips, femoral heads)

LEARN MORE + [www.hema-quebec.qc.ca](http://www.hema-quebec.qc.ca)



**734**  
DONORS IN QUÉBEC

of which **97%** are cornea donors



FEBRUARY 2011  
**704**  
PATIENTS

Decrease of **61%** in the number of patients waiting for a cornea transplant



APRIL 2015  
**278**  
PATIENTS

The average wait time has gone from 5 years in 2011 to less than 6 months in 2015.

**2,221** donor referrals by hospitals



of which only **33%** results in a donation...

**How to indicate your consent?**



Sign the *Consent to Organ and Tissue Donation* form of the *Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec*

**Three ways to consent:**



Sign the sticker and place it on the back of your health insurance card



Have your decision entered in the registry of the *Chambre des notaires du Québec*

LEARN MORE + [www.signezdon.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.signezdon.gouv.qc.ca)



Danick

Patrick

## Local experts and donors join forces to save lives!

Danick Drolet's life was saved with three heart valve transplants and Patrick Beaupré can see again thanks to a corneal transplant. They are both reminders of the importance of indicating your consent to organ and tissue donation by signing the RAMQ sticker and placing it on the back of your health insurance card.

Patrick Beaupré sustained an injury to both eyes at the age of 14 years old and Danick Drolet was born with only one pulmonary artery. If it wasn't for the generosity of those who have consented to donating human tissues, Patrick would be blind and Danick would be dead.

Thousands of stories like those of Patrick and Danick occur every year. As a supplier of human tissues since 2001, Héma-Québec knows first hand. It distributed close to 4,000 products to hospitals across Québec and Canada between April 1, 2014 and March 31, 2015. Its expertise has continued to grow throughout the years, and today it manages the largest human tissue bank in Canada, ranked first in volume of products distributed.

These results are possible first and foremost because people consented to donate human tissues. In Québec, 2.1 million people are registered in the *Registre des consentements au don d'organes et de tissus* of the *Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec* (RAMQ), created in 2011.

Héma-Québec would, however, like to reiterate the importance of indicating your consent, because although the majority of the population has stated that they are in favour of donating organs and tissues, fewer than half have officialized their consent.

The impact of registering in the RAMQ's *Registre des consentements au don d'organes et de tissus* is very tangible. For example, the number of people waiting for a corneal transplant in Québec has fallen to 61% in four years, going from 704 in February 2011 to 278 in April 2015. •



For information on human tissue donation: [www.hema-quebec.qc.ca](http://www.hema-quebec.qc.ca), *Human Tissues* section

# Héma-Québec welcomes a young inventor



Anya Pogharian, 18 years old, tested her hemodialysis machine with blood for the first time in Héma-Québec's laboratories in summer 2015. The results were very encouraging and Héma-Québec invited her to come back and test her third prototype when it is ready.

Photo: Audrey Lajoie-Lavoie

Driven by the desire to save lives, Anya Pogharian created a simple and inexpensive hemodialysis machine as part of a high school science project two years ago at the age of 16. Her goal was to make treatment accessible to those less fortunate who suffer from kidney failure.

Last summer, Héma-Québec welcomed her for an internship in its Québec City research and development laboratory, where she was able to test her invention with blood for the very first time.

The young inventor got the idea for this machine, which acts as an artificial kidney by filtering blood, when she was volunteering for the dialysis department at the Montreal General Hospital. Chronic kidney failure is a widespread disease that involves the gradual deterioration of kidney function. In Québec, 550,000 people suffer from kidney failure to varying degrees. In developing countries, several people die from it because of a lack of access to the expensive treatments. Wanting to find a solution to this problem, the Montréal student designed a device that is inexpensive, portable and easy to use to treat patients at home.

**“When you give blood to research, the benefits are not immediate like when you give blood for transfusion, but it’s just as important.”**

“The price of this type of device generally ranges between \$35,000 and \$60,000, but Anya was able to build hers for the modest sum of \$500, finding most of the parts online. This is her second prototype, and while there are still adjustments to be made to optimize safety, it’s already very promising,” stated the director of operational research at Héma-Québec, Louis Thibault, who expects the cost of the device to run around \$6,000 when all is said and done, which would push manufacturers to lower their prices and thus provide a first step toward greater accessibility to treatment.

“In addition to being expensive, dialysis treatments in hospitals normally take several hours and must be done several times a week. Getting to hospitals is not only difficult, but very often impossible in poor countries. I’m thinking of countries such as India or Pakistan, where 90% of patients don’t have access to treatment. A machine

# Becoming a research donor...

## Another way to help

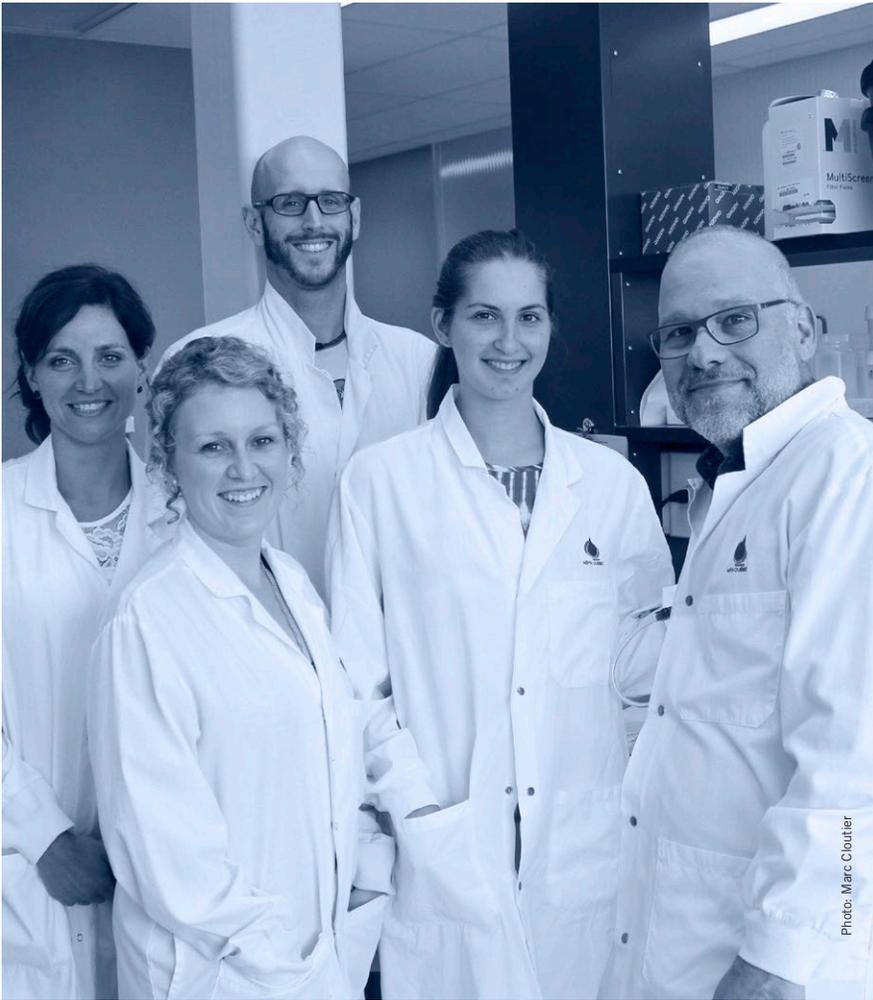
The contribution from research donors is considerable. By becoming a research donor, you are helping to improve:

- the quality of blood products used to treat patients; and
- the efficiency of services provided to hospitals and the Québec population.

We are always looking for volunteers to take part in studies aimed at, for example:

- assessing transfusion medicine technology;
- optimizing blood component manufacturing processes; and
- developing laboratory tests.

If you are not an active blood donor, are at least 18 years of age, are in good health and live in the Montréal or Québec City area, you can join the Research and Development Donor Registry.



The young inventor is surrounded by Héma-Québec's research and development team (from left to right): Marie Joëlle de Grandmont, Audrey Laforce-Lavoie, Éric Ducas, Anya Pogharian and Louis Thibault.

that is both portable and affordable could prevent many deaths," adds Anya, who has so far dedicated over 1,000 hours to designing her device and intends to continue perfecting it. Héma-Québec has invited her to return to test her third prototype when it is ready.

"My experience at Héma-Québec was really amazing. I had never worked in such a sophisticated laboratory before. The team was always there to help me and I learned so much during my time there," concluded the young lady, who is grateful for the generosity of those who donate to research. "Many people rely on blood donations for survival. When you give blood to research, the benefits are not immediate like when you give blood for transfusion, but it's just as important. It's what makes discoveries and scientific progress possible. Ultimately, even more lives are saved!" •

➔ **For more information:**  
[www.hema-quebec.qc.ca](http://www.hema-quebec.qc.ca), *Research and development > Research and Development Donor Registry* section

**To join the Registry:**  
 418-780-4362, ext. 3256 or 1-800-267-9711, ext. 3256

## Research and Development Donor Registry

NEARLY  
 **500**  
 REGISTERED DONORS

NEARLY  
 **15**  
 PROJECTS MADE POSSIBLE  
 EVERY YEAR  
 THANKS TO RESEARCH DONORS

# Black female donors needed

Up until recently, a third of Black women were excluded from giving blood due to having a hemoglobin<sup>1</sup> level below the qualification criteria of 125 g/l. The medical community has observed, however, that normal hemoglobin levels are actually 115 g/l in Black women. Health Canada therefore agreed to change the criteria from 125 g/l to 115 g/l, and Héma-Québec began to apply it in August 2015.

As an additional safety measure, Héma-Québec has also launched the *Program to replace post-donation iron loss in Black women*. Taking iron after a blood donation can not only prevent a decrease in participants' iron reserves, but also improve reserves in those who could be lacking it due to menstruation or pregnancy. Since the launch, 42 people have joined, but the needs are still great since the objective is to recruit 500 participants. Black women are therefore invited to join in large numbers.

By joining the program, you will be helping people suffering from sickle-cell anemia, a hereditary blood disease mainly diagnosed in members of the Black community. Its treatment through the transfusion of red blood cells has greatly contributed to improving the outlook and quality of life of patients suffering from a severe case. One of the main complications of transfusions, however, is the development of antibodies. This occurs when the transfused blood is not optimally compatible with that of the recipient. The chances of finding optimally compatible blood are much greater when the donor and recipient share a similar genetic make-up.

## What does your participation in the program involve?

You simply have to register for a blood donation in one of our participating GLOBULE Blood Donor Centre (Centre Laval, Place Versailles or Quartier DIX30) and mention that you would like to participate in the *Program to replace post-donation iron*

<sup>1</sup> Hemoglobin is a protein containing iron.



Dorothy,  
donor

Photo: Nicolas Faoc

*loss in Black women*. Apart from hemoglobin, if you meet all the blood donation eligibility criteria, you'll be able to participate.

If your hemoglobin level is at 115 g/l or over, you will be eligible for blood donation. If your hemoglobin level is under 115 g/l, you won't give blood that day, but you'll still take part in the program to monitor your iron reserves through a blood sample. You will read an information pamphlet, fill out a consent form, and answer a questionnaire about your pregnancy history and menstruation.

### If you give blood

In addition to the usual test performed on donations, a ferritin test will be conducted. Ferritin is an indicator of the amount of iron in your reserves.

After your blood donation, we will give you iron supplements to take, according to the recommended dose, to replace the iron lost during donation.

### If you do not give blood

If your hemoglobin level is under 115 g/l, the nurse will only collect the amount of blood needed for the ferritin test: 7 ml, or half of a tablespoon.

In both cases, we will invite you to attend at least two blood drives. Ideally, you will donate twice a year. •



For more information, contact Naderge Ceneston: 514-832-5000, ext. 5230 or [naderge.ceneston@hema-quebec.qc.ca](mailto:naderge.ceneston@hema-quebec.qc.ca)

## IMMUNOHEMATOLOGY

# Héma-Québec training recognized in 34 countries

From September 2010 to September 2015, Héma-Québec's immunoematology training program, created for Québec blood bank laboratory technicians, registered more than 625 new enrollments from 34 countries.

Photo: Stanko Josimov

In total, close to a thousand professionals in transfusion medicine have registered since the creation of the program in 2002, including more than 100 Héma-Québec laboratory technicians and nurses.

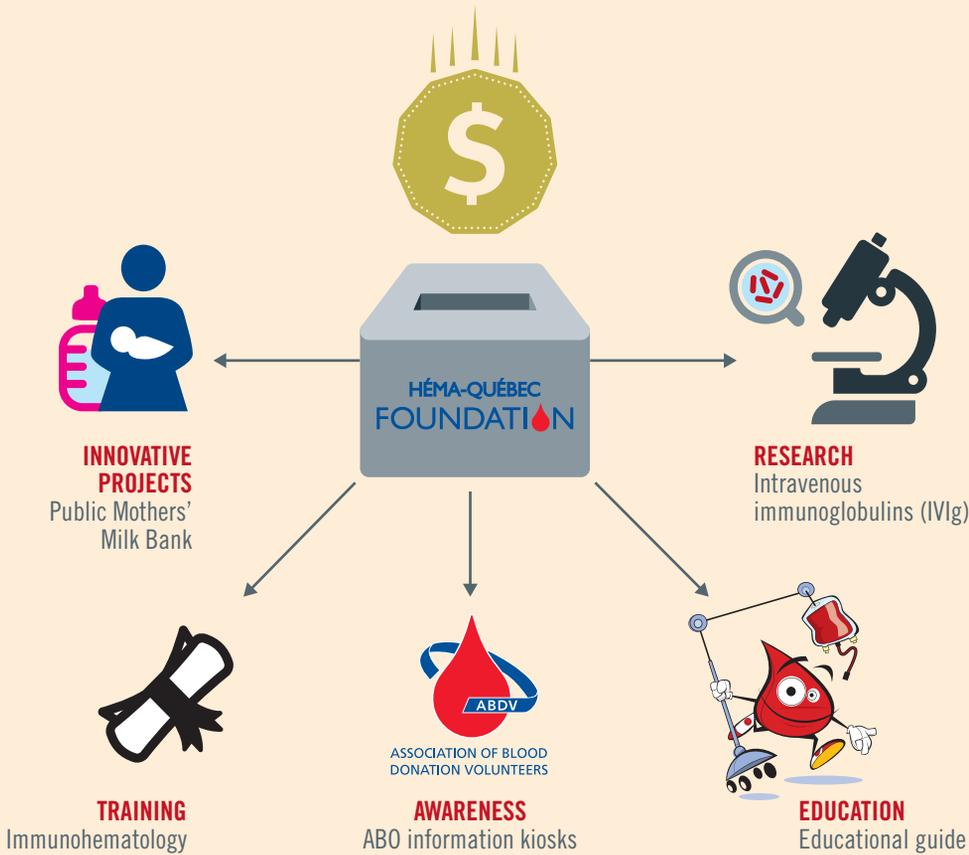
This program enables students to develop more sophisticated techniques to detect antibodies against red blood cells, and is aimed at optimizing transfusion safety. Providing online access to the training in French in 2010 and translating the courses into English and Spanish have made it possible to offer 27 learning modules throughout the world. Up to now, 68% of participants are French-speaking, 19% are English-speaking and 13% are Spanish-speaking.

Transfusion medicine is a constantly evolving field, and laboratory technicians have to keep their knowledge up to date.

However, limited human resources make it difficult to provide training outside the workplace. Héma-Québec therefore refined its approach to training to better meet the needs of its hospitals clients and employees. In doing so, it also ended up meeting the needs of blood bank personnel in other parts of the world.

The Héma-Québec online courses meet the requirements of continuing education. They are recognized by the *Ordre professionnel des technologistes médicaux du Québec*, the Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science and the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science. The certification issued by these organizations at the end of the program is a testament to their quality; and the support of the Héma-Québec Foundation and companies such as Grifols and the Pan American Health Organization helps to increase their visibility. •

You can give your **time...**  
 You can give your **blood...**  
 Did you know that you can also give **money?**



By supporting the Foundation, you allow Héma-Québec to do more, do it better and do it faster.

**Every dollar counts and make a difference.**

**HOW TO HELP?**

- Donate money
- Donate products or services
- Organize a fundraising event
- Establish a endowment fund, named for you or a loved one
- Plan a bequest or life insurance donation

For more information or to make a donation:  
[fondation.hema-quebec.qc.ca](http://fondation.hema-quebec.qc.ca)

**HÉMA-QUÉBEC FOUNDATION** 

Do more, do it better and do it faster.

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