

# INFO



VOLUME 8 – OCTOBER 2005

BULLETIN FOR VOLUNTEERS, BLOOD DONORS AND HÉMA-QUÉBEC PARTNERS

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Greetings to everyone,



*You will have undoubtedly noticed the new layout of our newsletter, which marks a change in its frequency of publication. Given our financial resources and in the spirit of good management, our newsletter will only be published once a year, in the fall. It goes without*

*saying that the newsletter's content will be maximized to provide you with as much information about our activities as possible. I invite you to visit our recently rejuvenated Web site at [www.hema-quebec.qc.ca](http://www.hema-quebec.qc.ca) where the latest information about our organization and public-interest updates are available online.*

*There have been a number of recent accomplishments at Héma-Québec. You can check them out by consulting our 2004–2005 Annual Report on our Web site. To provide you with an immediate taste of its contents, we have included a spread showing some of the most significant figures in the middle of this newsletter.*

*One change has involved distinguishing the differences in our activities by reorganizing them according to our three product lines: blood products, human tissues and stem cells. Since*



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

*the safety of these products is always a priority, we have instituted measures to ensure their safety and their adequacy.*

*Thanks to the generosity of the Association of Blood Donation Volunteers Fund and the Héma-Québec Foundation, we have introduced a mobile blood donation unit pilot project. It is expected that the mobile donation unit will be put to increasing use in 2005–2006.*

*We also established the Public Cord Blood Bank in partnership with the CHU mère-enfant Sainte-Justine and St. Mary's Hospital Center. Furthermore, we obtained a very important accreditation with regard to human tissues.*

*You will learn a great deal more about all of these subjects by reading the following pages. I would also like to draw your attention to the personal stories we publish. They are designed to pay tribute to the people without whom Héma-Québec would never be able to fulfil its mission.*

*I would also like to emphasize that all of the accomplishments you will become aware of are the result of a teamwork involving our staff, community partners, volunteers and donors. I would like to thank all of these individuals and groups for their invaluable contribution to the collective blood supply and for their commitment to patients.*

  
Dr. Francine Décary



## FOR THE HOLIDAYS... THE MOST PRECIOUS GIFT OF ALL

As the Holiday season approaches and people start looking for gift ideas, many patients are unanimous in their suggestion: a blood donation. It is one of the most precious, anonymous and noble gifts you can make. It only takes an hour to “wrap,” it can be given without any fuss and in complete confidence at a blood donor clinic, and it can help save the lives of several people.

From November 28, 2005, to January 6, 2006, thousands of donors are expected to share their good health by donating some of their blood and their time. During the Holiday campaign that will take place under the theme “Share a unique gift. Give blood. Give life.” Héma-Québec will organize hundreds of blood drives in Québec with the help of volunteers and partner organizations. We look forward to seeing you there!



*Share a unique gift.*

**GIVE BLOOD. GIVE LIFE.**

# PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES AGAINST WEST NILE VIRUS

Héma-Québec takes all the precautions at its disposal to maintain a supply of blood products that is safe for patients. It is particularly vigilant with respect to West Nile virus (WNV). In fact, the supplier of blood in Québec has adapted its action plan to effectively counter the effects of WNV on Quebecers' blood product supplies throughout the year.

## Measures taken during the summer ...

From June 1 until November 30 of each year, Héma-Québec screens all blood donations for WNV using the pooled sample screening method. Used by Canadian Blood Services and other blood suppliers in North America, this procedure consists of combining the samples of six donors and carrying out a screening test on this sample pool. Enough blood can be quickly and efficiently analysed using this method to meet the demand for a safe blood supply. If a sample pool is found to be WNV-positive, each blood donation from that pool is screened individually to find which one is infected. The infected blood will then be destroyed. The corresponding donor will be informed of his or her exclusion for a period of 56 days and the infection declared to public health authorities.

As indicated in its action plan, as soon as a donation is found to be WNV-positive, Héma-Québec will test all of the blood donations collected in the regions deemed to be at high risk for this virus with the individual screening test method. If, after fourteen days, there is no positive case detected from blood donors in these areas, Héma-Québec will revert to the pooled sample screening method.

It should be noted that last August, following the detection of WNV in blood donations collected in Eastern Ontario by Canadian Blood Services, Héma-Québec conducted individual analyses of all samples of blood collected in the areas bordering on the Ottawa and Eastern Ontario regions. None of these donations tested positive for the presence of WNV.

For the first time, Héma-Québec's WNV screening test has given a positive result in a blood donation collected in Montréal on August 31, 2005. All blood products derived from the donation haven't been used and have been destroyed. Both the donor and public health authorities have been notified. The donor concerned has been prohibited from donating blood for 56 days. At the end of this temporary prohibition period, the virus will no longer be present in the donor's blood. This result confirms the reliability of the screening test used for the analysis of over half a million donations since its implementation in June 2003.

As a result of this confirmed case, Héma-Québec screened every individual blood sample collected from September 2 to

September 16 during the blood drives held in the Montréal, Laval, Montérégie and Northern metropolitan areas. As no positive cases among blood donors were detected after a two-week—14 days—period, Héma-Québec resumed its pooled sample screening method.

All blood donors are asked if they are feeling well the day of the donation. If the answer is negative, the donor is excluded. Héma-Québec also asks donors to let it know if they are ill during the weeks following their donation.

## ... and winter

It should be recalled that last March, Héma-Québec announced it had obtained Health Canada's authorization to stop systematic testing for WNV in blood donations made between December 1 and May 31 of each year. According to epidemiological data, there is no risk of WNV during this time in Québec and Canada.

However, during this period, a question dealing with travel outside the country is asked of all donors when they meet with the nurse for their pre-donation interview. Blood donations from donors who have travelled outside Canada in the 56 days preceding their donation are tested to screen for the virus. In 2005, exceptionally, this measure was put into effect beginning on April 4.

In addition, the creation of supplies of frozen products collected during the winter to cover summer requirements has been abandoned. Since the screening test's level of reliability is known, this measure is no longer judged necessary.



All of these precautionary measures were adopted after consultation with the various advisory committees of Héma-Québec's Board of Directors, as well as the haemovigilance committee. Since the appearance of WNV in Québec and Canada, Héma-Québec has been monitoring the situation with public health authorities and its partner, Canadian Blood Services.

You cannot contract WNV by donating blood. A special telephone hotline (1-877-VNO-HÉMA or 1-877-866-4362) is available for individuals who have questions about the effects of WNV on blood. For more information, you can also visit the Héma-Québec Web site at [www.hema-quebec.qc.ca](http://www.hema-quebec.qc.ca).

# GOOD NEWS FOR TRAVELLERS!

Héma-Québec has recently changed its blood donor selection criteria with respect to certain trips made abroad, including those criteria related to variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease for Western Europe and those related to malaria for certain areas of the Dominican Republic.

The goal of these changes is to allow more people to donate blood and to reinstate certain donors who had been forbidden to give blood under the former criteria while at the same time ensuring the safety of the collective blood supply.

## **MALARIA: CERTAIN AREAS OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC ARE NO LONGER AT RISK**

Since July 20, 2005, tourists who have travelled in the province of La Altagracia in the Dominican Republic—in particular to Bayahibe, la Romana, Punta Cana as well as tourist sites on the islands of Catalina and Saona—and who have been back in Canada since May 6, 2005, may once again donate blood.

Note that there is no risk in the following Dominican seaside resorts and cities: Bocachica, Cabarete, Juan Dolio, Puerto Plata, Santo Domingo, Sosua, Las Terenas and the Samana Peninsula. Héma-Québec decided to re-evaluate the at-risk areas as a result of notices that were recently issued by the public health authorities concerned.

The exclusion is maintained, however, for blood donors who have travelled to at-risk areas—especially rural areas—where they may have been exposed to malaria. They must wait six months after their departure from the affected area before they can give blood.

Héma-Québec tracks more than 100 tropical and subtropical countries where malaria is endemic. In certain cases, only a few regions of these countries are involved.

## **VARIANT CREUTZFELDT-JAKOB DISEASE: CHANGES IN THE SELECTION CRITERION FOR BLOOD DONORS**

Effective July 6, 2005, travellers who visited the United Kingdom and France for the first time since January 1, 1997, are eligible to donate blood, regardless of the length of their stay in these two countries.

Héma-Québec had previously excluded people who had travelled in certain Western European countries (Germany, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Spain, France, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Ireland, the United Kingdom and Switzerland) from donating blood. The exclusion criteria covered the period that began on January 1, 1980, and were ongoing and cumulative. In the case of travellers who have visited the United Kingdom or France, this period of restriction will now be limited to December 31, 1996.

The exclusion involving donors who have spent six months or more in Western Europe since January 1, 1980, remains in effect, however. Visits to the United Kingdom and France since January 1, 1997, shall no longer have to be included in the duration of time spent in Western Europe. Moreover, any person who has received a transfusion of blood, red blood cells, platelets or plasma since January 1, 1980, in Western Europe will be disqualified from giving blood.

Therefore, since July 6, 2005, only those persons who have spent a cumulative period of one month or more in the United Kingdom between January 1, 1980, and December 31, 1996, inclusively; three months or more in France between January 1, 1980, and December 31, 1996, inclusively; six months or more since January 1, 1980, in Western Europe; and those who have received a blood, red blood cell, platelet or plasma transfusion in Western Europe since 1980 cannot donate blood.

Héma-Québec decided to reassess the relevance of this donor selection criterion in light of the effective application of surveillance and control measures for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in the United Kingdom and France since 1996, the low number of cases to date and reassuring predictions as to the disease's long-term impact. It should be noted that the 1996 cut-off date applicable to stays in the United Kingdom and France was recommended by Health Canada and is in compliance with the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) standards concerning blood and blood products.

**Blood donors who are affected by these new measures MUST call 1-800-847-2525 (Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.), BEFORE reporting to a blood drive.** Héma-Québec representatives will assess their eligibility to give blood according to their length of stay abroad and the new revised criteria. Potential donors may also visit Héma-Québec's Web site at [www.hema-quebec.qc.ca](http://www.hema-quebec.qc.ca) for more information.





## THE STORY OF A FIRST DONATION

**When we talk about a committed blood donor, we think immediately of Claude Désy. Nothing can stop this Boucherville retiree when comes the time to convince people to donate blood. He has already written an article in a local newspaper to explain just how important it is to give blood.**

Mr. Désy no longer has to prove his dedication: he now has about 102 donations to his credit. A remarkable fact is that he has only given whole blood donations—every 56 days—to attain this impressive number of donations. Moreover, he started his donor career late in life, when he was in his forties. And as surprising as that might seem today, Mr. Désy was hindered from giving blood for many years because he was afraid to do so. He tells us his story:



Mr. Claude Désy (in the centre, seated) after his 100<sup>th</sup> donation, which took place in Boucherville on December 23, 2004 as part of the 4<sup>th</sup> blood drive jointly organized by École secondaire De Mortagne and the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 266, Pierre-Boucher. Mr. Désy is surrounded by the staff and by Mr. Normand Brouillard, from the Legion.

*“Every year on Good Friday, there is a blood drive at the Hydro-Québec premises in Montréal. I always wanted to do my part, but a little something always held me back. I had the impression that if I gave blood I would somehow become weaker. As a result, my contribution was limited to making posters the week before the blood drive to invite employees to give generously. I wasn’t able to make that choice for myself, however.*”

*“One evening when I was at home, the phone rang. At the other end of the line, a lady informed me that there would be a blood drive on such-and-such a day at the Promenades Montarville shopping centre. She asked me if she could count on my donation. I completely surprised myself when I answered ‘Yes.’ After hanging up, I realized that I had made a commitment and that I had to honour my word.*”

*“After eating a good supper, I showed up somewhat nervously on the day of the appointment. A worker pricked the end of my finger and collected a small quantity of the precious fluid in a pipette, first, in order to determine my blood type and then, to check the density of iron in my blood. The result was okay.*”

**What does it feel like to have made 100 donations of whole blood? *“It’s not so much pride as satisfaction. The satisfaction of having contributed to saving or improving the lives of several people”***

*“I was then invited to stretch out on one of the cots. It was at that instant that the real test started for me. I didn’t dare look as the needle entered my vein, but I felt that I was breathing normally. I didn’t want to close my eyes. I looked at the ceiling and listened to what was happening around me. I remained very alert to how I was feeling. The moments ticked by, and I felt I was still breathing normally. Finally, after about 10 minutes, the nurse said in a rather even tone: ‘It’s all over, Sir.’ What a relief! I took the time to congratulate myself: ‘Bravo, Désy!’*”

*“My blood type is O-negative. This is a relatively rare blood group, since only 7.5% of the world’s population belong to it. I am what is called a universal donor. However, I can only receive blood of this particular type.*”

*“After my first donation, I became a regular first at the Red Cross, and now at the Héma-Québec blood drives. After my 35<sup>th</sup> donation, I received a Certificate of Honour signed by the Governor General of Canada and the Honorary President of the Red Cross, Mr. Ramon John Hnatyshyn. After my 50<sup>th</sup> donation, Roméo Leblanc, an Acadian and the Governor General of Canada at the time, sent another special certificate to me. And that’s not all. As long as I am able, I will continue to give blood. My goal is 100 donations!”*

You’ve now reached your goal, Mr. Désy! What does it feel like to have made 100 donations of whole blood? *“It’s not so much pride as satisfaction. The satisfaction of having contributed to saving or improving the lives of several people,”* he said.

Mr. Désy now donates up to six times per year. There is no doubt that he will continue to help a large number of people!

## PAY IT FORWARD...

**Last October, Manon Beauchesne—the sister of Éric Beauchesne, a blood marrow donor—wrote this article in honour of her brother. It is a touching message, and a source of inspiration for everyone.**

When we are confronted with what we might be tempted to call the absurdity of life (or more simply the curve balls that are thrown our way), like every other human being we become confused, demoralized and outraged.

A bone marrow donation is intended to save human lives directly through transplantation; this therapy is often an ultimate chance for survival. It is a completely altruistic and anonymous gesture that reflects the donor's sense of generosity and solidarity.

A gala event for all bone marrow donors registered in Héma-Québec's Registry was held on September 27, 2004, at the Hôtel Gouverneur Île Charron. My younger brother was a member of this small group of about 10 honourees. For Éric, donating his bone marrow is a gesture that is both morally implicit and harmless. I was so proud of him.



In a quavering voice, one of the recipients began recounting her personal story with *"A warm hello to everyone who has experienced, is experiencing or will experience the pain that only hope can cure. Thanks to this tiny bit of life that you made available to help save another person's life, this pain becomes both divine and justifiable."*

The wave of solidarity and deep friendship I witnessed among Héma-Québec professionals, donors, recipients and support staff moved me deeply, and prompted me to reflect on the real sense of what it means to share this very "human" gift.

If, on occasion, I am driven to despair at humankind because of its meanness, trivial quarrels, baseness and quest for power, the flood of love, sympathy and self-sacrifice I felt on this occasion has today restored my confidence in humanity.

Encouraging people to join the registry as potential donors is a glaring reality for organizations such as Héma-Québec. We are all potential saviours, so it isn't worth waiting to feel more involved. We are needed now.

My mother often told me that on the day we leave this earth, we take what we have given with us. I can assure you that my brother will not be leaving this world empty-handed.

I join with my brother in dedicating this message to Ms. Gardner and my close friend Louise who sometimes have to experience moments that are too difficult for any of us to imagine.

**Manon Beauchesne**

PS: "Pay it forward" means that those who receive a favour must pass on a favour to three other people, and so on. My brother was saved by his best friend after falling through ice and wanted to repay others with what he is now able to offer.

Source: article published in the *Nouvelle de Victoriaville*, October 24, 2004.

## GIVING WITHOUT COUNTING

There are those people who give without counting. Sylvère Dostie is a member of this special category. With more than 400 donations to his credit, Mr. Dostie is an outstanding donor. This resident of



Saint-Agapit displays a great deal of humility, however, when we ask him how many blood donations he had made. *"I don't count anymore,"* he replies.

Mr. Dostie leads a full personal and professional life. He tells us—with a great deal of pride—that he has been married for 35 years now, and explains that he has held two jobs for more than 31 years. Although he works some 70 hours per week, he always finds time to give blood—plasma in most cases. Describing himself as an individual who takes his commitments very seriously, it isn't surprising that he is such a diligent donor.

Mr. Dostie's blood donor career began when he was 19 years old. *"At the time, I was working at the Plessisville smelter located near the hospital. The workers were frequently called upon to give blood in emergency situations. The boss considered donating blood to be a social duty. For that reason, those who answered the call were able to make their donation during work hours,"* recounts Mr. Dostie.

He began by making whole blood donations. Then a nurse who had noticed his self-discipline in making regular donations talked to him about the program for donating platelets by apheresis. *"At first, it was mostly upon request and according to need. Often, it was for specific recipients. It was extremely meaningful and very motivating! Afterwards, I began to make plasma donations."*

Mr. Dostie's commitment doesn't end with his blood donations. For several years now, he has been listed in the Stem Cell Donor Registry. For Mr. Dostie, donating blood is one of his most important values: *"It doesn't cost me anything, and I'm not committed to doing anything more than that. Moreover, I appreciate the discretion that is involved,"* he concludes.

# CORD BLOOD: ANOTHER WAY TO SAVE LIVES

Héma-Québec's Public Cord Blood Bank has been in existence for a year now. July 20, 2005, marked the first anniversary of this tremendous adventure. Since the beginning of operations, blood from 189 umbilical cords has been collected, including 52 that qualified for inventory purposes.

To qualify, the bag of cord blood sent to Héma-Québec must contain a minimum volume of 120 millilitres of blood. The number of nucleated cells contained in the bag of blood is then calculated. The number must be a minimum of  $1 \times 10^9$  nucleated cells per bag. Next, we conduct a sterility test before and after freezing. A sample is sent to the CHU mère-enfant Sainte-Justine, which is responsible for determining if the sample is a carrier of sickle-cell anemia. The test is called hemoglobin chromatography.

We also measure the number of CD34+ cells in the blood. These cells are very important for regenerating the immune system in a person with a disease such as leukemia. We also carry out an analysis of all the transmissible disease markers as we do for other blood donations. High-resolution tests for HLA-ABCD typing are carried out. These tests determine whether there is compatibility between the cord blood and the future recipient.

During the seven days following delivery of the baby, we take blood samples from the mother for virology tests exactly like those we do for all blood donations. Frozen samples are kept for HLA typing at the time the donation is selected for transplant.

If the cord blood does not qualify, it will be sent to Hôpital Saint-Justine's stem cell research department on the express condition that the mother has consented to this eventuality and that she gave birth at this hospital centre.

Cord blood is a blood product that is widely used for patients suffering from leukemia. For some patients who do not have compatible stem cell donors in their immediate families and for whom we cannot find any compatible donor in the international registries, cord blood is their last chance for a cure because the degree of compatibility required is not as high as for stem cells from adult bone marrow. Cord blood cells are immature cells that adapt extremely well in the recipient's body.

Héma-Québec's partners at the present time are the CHU mère-enfant Sainte-Justine and St. Mary's Hospital Center, which are both located in Montréal. The staff members of these centres have been trained according to the good manufacturing practices in effect at Héma-Québec in order to meet Health Canada's rigorous criteria.

Héma-Québec fervently wishes to increase the participation of the various ethnic groups living in Québec to target increased compatibility between donors and recipients. For example, a child with leukemia who has Asian parents will need cord blood from a baby of the same ethnic origin.

If it is not collected for transplant purposes, cord blood is discarded. Knowing how precious it is, all donations to Québec's Public Cord Blood Bank represent an opportunity to save lives!

For more information or to register for the Public Cord Blood Bank,

- Call 1-800-565-6635 or (514) 832-5000, ext. 253
- Write to [sangdecordon@hema-quebec.qc.ca](mailto:sangdecordon@hema-quebec.qc.ca)
- Visit the Héma-Québec Web site

## NEW MEMBERS OF HÉMA-QUÉBEC'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The composition of Héma-Québec's Board of Directors changed on May 4, 2005, when the Québec government appointed two new directors by order in Council. They are:



Dr. Pierre Ouellet, oncohematologist from the Centre hospitalier universitaire de Québec, is a member of the university community's biotechnology sector. He was chosen from among the names submitted by the universities to represent the academic community.



Mr. Jean-Pierre Allaire, a KPMG partner, has a background in private enterprise and was chosen from the names submitted by various socioeconomic groups to represent the business community.



As per general rules, Ms. Cheryl Campbell Steer, President of Campbell Steer & Associés, was elected acting Chair of the Board of Directors on August 18, 2005. She replaces Dr. André Lebrun who has resigned because of new engagements.

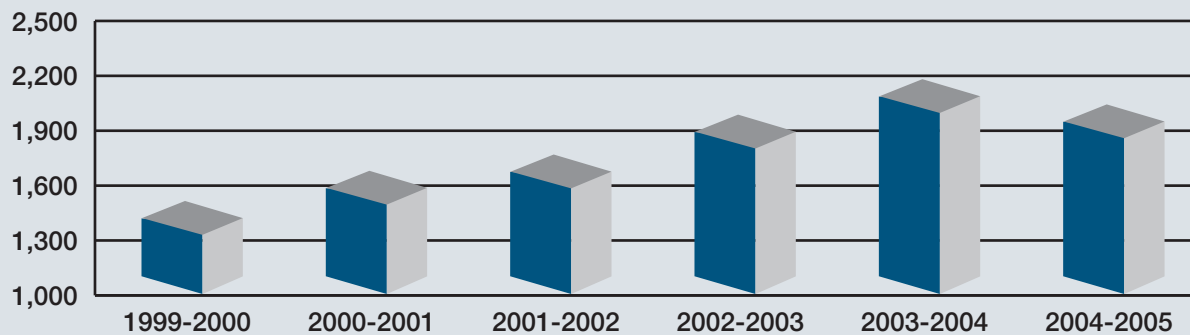


# HÉMA-QUÉBEC:

## A FEW FACTS AND FIGURES

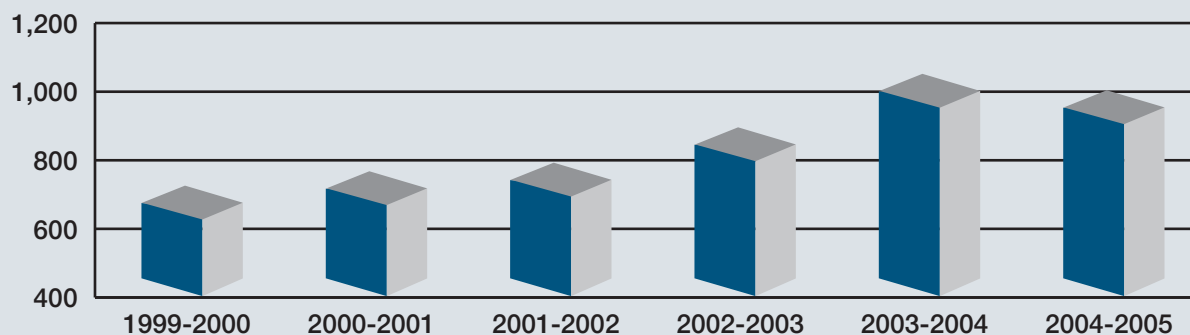
The generosity of donors and volunteers, above all, helps Quebec hospitals meet their needs for an adequate supply of blood products. Meeting these goals also depends on Héma-Québec's ability to raise donor and volunteer awareness to the cause of blood donation and to recruit them; as well as to design, develop and adopt efficient methods of achieving its blood collection objectives; and to manage the inventory of labile blood products, including specialized products. The following figures will give you an idea of the efforts put in place and the results obtained last year.

### Number of blood drives



The decrease in the number of blood drives organized is due to several factors. First, the organization's supply strategy targets an increased proportion of collections at the GLOBULE Blood Donor Centres which are open seven days a week. The year 2004-2005 also saw a significant drop in the demand for packed red cells. The lower loss rate during production and the lower expiry rate also helped significantly bring down the number of drives.

### Number of collection days at GLOBULE Blood Donor Centres

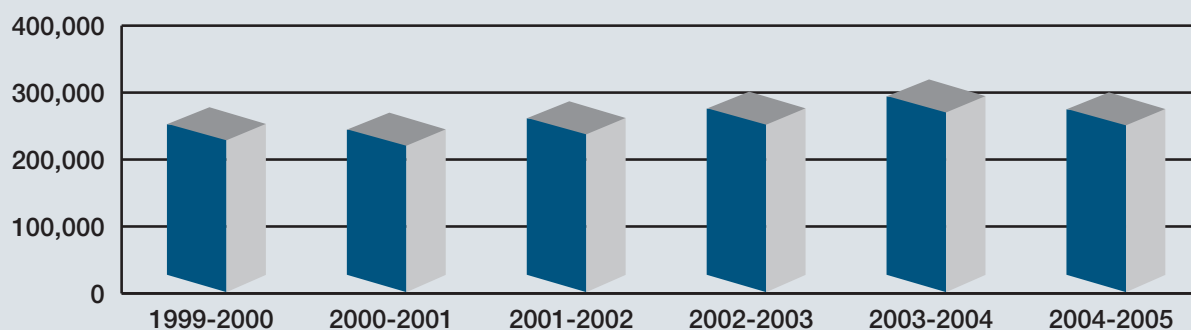


There was a decrease, specifically after the merger of two collection centres in Québec City into one, i.e. the Place Laurier GLOBULE Blood Donor Centre. Note that all three centres saw an average of over 1,000 donors per week, i.e. approximately 16% more donations than last year. This increased traffic is also related to the new advertising campaign for the GLOBULE Blood Donor Centres.

**Annual frequency of blood donations at GLOBULE Blood Donor Centres**

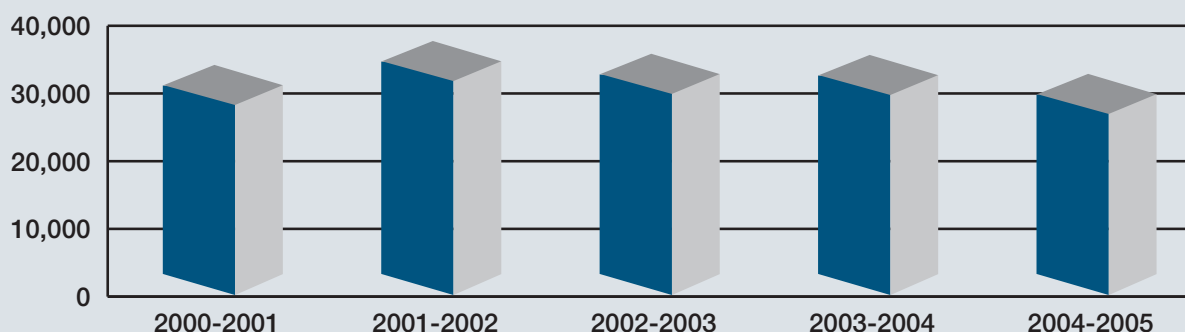
GLOBULE	NUMBER OF DONATIONS	NUMBER OF DONORS	ANNUAL FREQUENCY 2003-2004	ANNUAL FREQUENCY 2004-2005
Côte-Vertu	1,885	1,291	1.43	1.46
Place Versailles	15,158	8,656	1.75	1.75
Place Laurier	14,649	8,802	1.33	1.66

The number of donations per donor at the Côte-Vertu and Place Laurier GLOBULE Blood Donor Centres increased in 2004-2005 compared with 2003-2004. The annual frequency of donations remained stable at 1.75 for the Place Versailles GLOBULE centre. These results reflect the positive effects of the new GLOBULE TV campaign.

**Number of registered blood donors**

The number of registered blood donors dropped in 2004-2005, as did the demand for packed red cells and the number of blood drives organized.

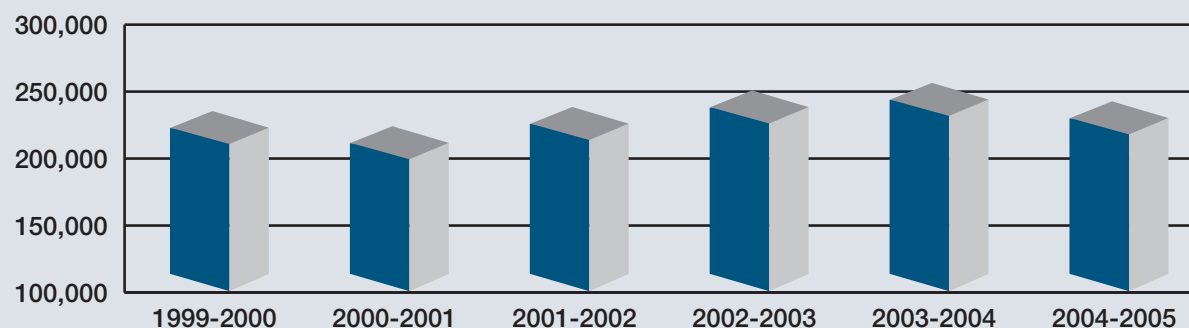
A total of 300,364 people registered to give blood, compared with 319,628 last year. Approximately 13% of registered donors visited a GLOBULE Blood Donor Centre in 2004-2005, compared with 10% the previous year.

**Number of new registered blood donors (including designated and directed)**

In 2004-2005, there were 32,892 new blood donors, an 8% decrease compared with 2003-2004. While it is still necessary to invest in an awareness campaign to attract new donors, the significant efforts focused on keeping existing donors loyal to the cause is a more economical development option.



### Number of blood donations collected



5% decrease in the number of blood donations collected in 2004-2005 compared with the previous year, due to the decreased demand for packed red cells.

### Labile blood products shipped to hospitals

YEAR	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
Packed red cells	195,312	200,747	211,901	221,659	223,723	220,215
Platelets from whole blood	95,606	108,040	114,305	107,612	98,114	71,284
Equivalent-platelets by apheresis*	6,170	8,510	9,600	21,170	33,875	58,950
<b>Total platelets</b>	<b>101,776</b>	<b>116,550</b>	<b>123,905</b>	<b>128,782</b>	<b>131,989</b>	<b>130,234</b>
Plasma from whole blood	30,626	32,589	33,481	39,324	46,090	46,999
Plasma by apheresis	6,335	7,549	6,989	8,200	8,231	7,170
Cryoprecipitate	11,599	11,935	12,102	12,685	12,888	11,568
Cryoprecipitate supernatants	5,103	6,069	6,714	6,593	10,866	8,768
<b>Total*</b>	<b>350,751</b>	<b>375,439</b>	<b>395,092</b>	<b>417,243</b>	<b>433,787</b>	<b>424,954</b>

\*One bag of platelets by apheresis is equivalent to the quantity of platelets derived from five bags of whole blood. The total number of shipments includes total platelets. In total, the organization shipped 424,954 labile blood products, including 220,215 units of packed red cells, which represents a drop in demand from hospitals for labile blood products compared with previous years.

### Annual proportion of allogenic donations confirmed positive for each virology marker

YEAR	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
Total number of donations tested	224,175	238,532	250,861	256,518	242,720
HIV	0%	0.0004%	0.0008%	0.0004%	0.002%
HCV	0.0166%	0.0119%	0.009%	0.0160%	0.011%
HBV	0.0109%	0.0123%	0.0082%	0.01%	0.015%
HTLV	0%	0.0008%	0.0016%	0.0039%	0.001%
Syphilis	0.0095%	0.011%	0.0094%	0.0105%	0.010%

During the year 2004-2005, five donors infected with the human immunodeficiency virus were detected. This is an increase in the number of cases compared with the previous three years, during which only four cases in total were detected. The five cases in 2004-2005 tested positive for the two screening tests used. On analyzing this situation, no risk factor was identified. The donors came from different areas of Québec; four of the five cases were first-time donors. The last positive donation was on November 4, 2004. It is important to note that, these cases having been detected, products prepared from their donations were destroyed. Therefore, the safety of the supply was not threatened.

# SECOND WORLD BLOOD DONOR DAY

June 14, 2005, marked the second World Blood Donor Day. This day aims at thanking volunteer blood donors all over the world for their invaluable contributions and to encourage more people to donate their blood on a regular basis.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared the second Tuesday of June to be World Blood Donor Day. The first was held on June 14, 2004, in nearly 80 countries. This date commemorates the birth of the Austrian professor and Nobel Prize winner Karl Landsteiner, who discovered the ABO blood group system.

Héma-Québec took this opportunity to pay tribute to all Quebecers who are either blood donors or volunteers in this cause. The organization is proud to be able to rely on some 300,000 whole blood donors, 10,000 platelet donors, 10,000 plasma donors and 16,000 volunteers (including 1,500 organizing committees) each year.

***“If receiving blood is a right, giving blood is a privilege.”***

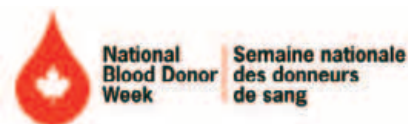
During the June 14 event on Parliament Hill, Dr. Francine Décarý emphasized that Héma-Québec’s blood donors—like Canadian Blood Services (CBS) donors—are considered to be anonymous heroes. It is these women and men who give a part of themselves to help those who are sick or, more seriously still, fighting for their life. She also invited Quebecers to join the ranks of people who fully benefit from the privilege of giving blood. *“If receiving blood is a right, giving blood is a privilege. This is an outstanding group, but it is not a closed group. Bring your relatives, friends, neighbours and colleagues to the next blood drive you attend. I’ll never be able to encourage you enough to continue to make this gift of life as often as possible. Tomorrow, according to all statistics, several of us will unfortunately need this precious fluid. Ensuring that we have sufficient blood donors in the future is, therefore, a top priority.”*

On this occasion, members of Parliament and representatives of Héma-Québec and CBS joined together in the Senate Foyer to honour blood supply system donors and volunteers and promote the idea of a national week-long celebration. Héma-



From left to right: Ms. Samar Chaker, recipient, Mr. Graham Sher, Chief Executive Officer of the Canadian Blood Services, Captain Raymonde Gaumont, blood donor, Mr. Terry Mercer, Senator, and Dr. Francine Décarý, Chief Executive Officer of Héma-Québec.

Québec and CBS obtained the support of several senators who agreed to present a public bill to Parliament in order to have the second week of June declared “National Blood Donor Week.”



Bill S-29, An Act respecting a National Blood Donor Week, was introduced in the Senate on May 5, 2005, by Senator Terry Mercer (Nova Scotia, Northend Halifax). When adopted, this law will enable Canadians to participate every year in the global World Blood Donor Day as part of a national week of celebration. This dedicated week will be the occasion to honour and give thanks to blood supply system donors and volunteers who contribute to the well-being of their fellow citizens. It will aim at highlighting the importance of blood, plasma, platelet and bone marrow donations and encouraging citizens to become donors or volunteers.

It is our hope that June 14 and National Blood Donor Week will soon become annual celebrations for millions of Quebecers and Canadians!

# THE NEW GLOBULE MOBILE BLOOD DONATION UNIT:

## JUST 40 DONORS AND A FEW PARKING SPOTS TO HELP SAVE LIVES

Companies, businesses and organizations in Montréal, Québec City and their surrounding regions can now contribute in an original way to the maintenance of the collective blood supply by hosting the new GLOBULE mobile blood donation unit in their own parking lot for a day and inviting 40 people to donate blood.

This new facility for collecting blood products is a bus 12.8 metres (42 feet) in length furnished with all of the necessary equipment required for a blood drive. This vehicle is used primarily for accessing donors in industrial parks, shopping centres and power centres without the space required for holding a traditional blood drive. It enables the Héma-Québec team to welcome 40 donors a day, mostly by appointment. Financing of the mobile donation unit is ensured by an annual contribution of \$20,000 (over a five-year period) from the Association of Blood Donation Volunteers Fund, a named fund under the umbrella of the Héma-Québec Foundation.

By inviting their staff members to donate blood at the GLOBULE mobile blood donation unit, which occupies just a few parking spots, institutional citizens can demonstrate their generosity toward those who are ill. Their association with the blood donation cause expresses their social commitment while allowing them to pursue the normal course of their activities with little or no disruption.



Companies, businesses and organizations interested in hosting the mobile donation unit can contact us toll free at 1-888-666-HEMA (4362), ext. 154, in the Montréal area and at 1-800-267-9711, ext. 2228, for the Québec City area. You may also visit Héma-Québec's Web site at [www.hema-quebec.qc.ca](http://www.hema-quebec.qc.ca).

## BLOOD TYPE COMPATIBILITY

		DONORS							
		O-	O+	B-	B+	A-	A+	AB-	AB+
RECIPIENTS	AB+	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	AB-	●	●	●	●			●	●
	A+	●	●			●	●		
	A-	●	●			●			
	B+	●	●	●	●				
	B-	●	●	●					
	O+	●	●						
	O-	●							

For example, if you are a donor whose blood group is O-, you are a universal donor. All blood groups are compatible with your blood. However, as a recipient, you can only receive O- blood.

## INFO-DRIVE

**In the Montréal Area and Western Québec**

(514) 832-0873  
or 1-800-343-7264

**In the Québec City Area and Eastern Québec**

(418) 780-7264  
or 1-800-761-6610

Blood drive schedules and results are also posted on our Web site at: [www.hema-quebec.qc.ca](http://www.hema-quebec.qc.ca)

Take the time to stop by, so that life... can continue.

### GLOBULE PLACE VERSAILLES

7275 Sherbrooke Street East,  
Montréal  
Radisson Metro Station  
Open 7 days a week

**With or without appointment**  
(514) 832-5000, ext. 185 or  
1-800-343-7264, ext. 185

### GLOBULE CÔTE-VERTU

4045 Côte-Vertu Blvd.,  
Saint-Laurent  
Open from Monday to Saturday

**With or without appointment**  
(514) 832-5000, ext. 185 or  
1-800-343-7264, ext. 185

### GLOBULE PLACE LAURIER

2700 Laurier Blvd., Sainte-Foy  
(entrance Hochelaga Blvd.,  
door 9)  
Open 7 days a week

**With or without appointment**  
(418) 780-7264  
or 1-800-761-6610, dial 1-2-0



# HÉMA-QUÉBEC PAYS TRIBUTE TO ITS VOLUNTEERS



Volunteerism is an essential component of Héma-Québec's success. To highlight the commitment and importance of its volunteers, Héma-Québec established in January 2005 a volunteer recognition program distinct from the one dedicated to blood donors.

Under the "Partner for Life" theme, this program is designed to pay tribute to the contributions of our volunteers, blood drive organizing committees, members of the Association of Blood Donation Volunteers and blood recipients who act as spokespersons for Héma-Québec.

Every year, we organize two volunteer recognition evenings at the regional level: one in Montréal and the other in Québec City. Their goal is to celebrate the invaluable contributions made by a group of semi-finalists who are either individuals or organizations that have stood out during the course of the previous year on the basis of a series of criteria.

During these recognition evenings, a total of 14 finalists are honoured with recognition plaques. From this group, we select the names of two individuals and one organization and enter them in the annual Hommage Bénévolat-Québec awards in the following categories:

- Volunteer in action (anyone 31 years of age and older)
- Organization in action (any non-profit community organization)
- Young volunteer (anyone between the ages of 14 and 30)

## GREAT HONOURS FOR GREAT VOLUNTEERS

The first regional recognition evenings as part of the new program were held on April 12 in Montréal and on April 14 in the Québec City region.

The 14 volunteer award winners for 2004 are:

## WESTERN REGION



From left to right: Dr. Francine Décary, CEO; Mr. Denis Tassé, Caisse populaire Gatineau (Corporate category); Ms. Madeleine Falardeau, Filles d'Isabelle de Mont-Laurier (Community category); Ms. Alexandra Bernard, Montreal General Hospital (Government category); Ms. Doris Croteau-Quenneville (Volunteer category); Ms. Nora Ali (Young Volunteer category); Ms. Inaam Raad, Montreal Muslim Community Centre (Community category); Mr. Yvan Charbonneau, Vice-President, Operations.

Absent: Ms. Sharon Rankin, Marianopolis College (Academic community).

## EASTERN REGION



From left to right: Mr. Éric Sirois (Young Volunteer category); Mr. William Racine, Club Lions de St-Romuald (Community category); Mr. Jean-Noël Corriveau, CÉGEP Limoilou (Academic community); Ms. Jacinthe Michaud (Volunteer category); Ms. Suzanne Leclerc, Ministère du Revenu du Québec (Government category); Mr. Jean-François Boulet, Industrial Alliance (Corporate category); Mr. Claude Lessard (Outstanding Volunteer category).

*Congratulations to these outstanding volunteers who devote their time to saving lives.*

**REMINDER:** The nomination deadline for the next Volunteer Recognition Program is December 31, 2005.

**For more information** about the Volunteer Recognition Program, contact Ms. Dominique Brault, Events Co-ordinator, at (514) 832-5000 or 1-888-666-HEMA, ext. 146, or by e-mail at [benevoles@hema-quebec.qc.ca](mailto:benevoles@hema-quebec.qc.ca).



## VOLUNTEER WITH A BIG HEART

A woman who cares deeply about her fellow citizens, Lucille Bergeron is an outstanding volunteer. Known for her attention to detail and her great availability, Ms. Bergeron devotes three to four eight-hour days a week to volunteer at Héma-Québec.



You can find her everywhere! She looks after the rest area at the Place Versailles and Côte-Vertu GLOBULE Blood Donor Centres, performs office duties such as stuffing envelopes and preparing mailings, and, during the summer, helps out with the blood drives.

Volunteerism has always played a big role in Ms. Bergeron's life. When she lived in L'Assomption, she did volunteer work with the elderly in the hospital centres. She often played music—the accordion—for them, in addition to performing her other duties. Ms. Bergeron moved to Montréal seven years ago. While she was looking for a place to do some volunteer work, her brother—who is a blood donor—suggested Héma-Québec to her. With 21 donations to her own credit, it was a natural choice for Ms. Bergeron to join the Héma-Québec team.

Ms. Bergeron always carries out her assignments with great enthusiasm. She says, *"I love what I do at Héma-Québec. I am accomplishing a mission."* When you watch her work, you can see the pride in her eyes.

What would she say to convince others to commit themselves to doing some volunteer work with Héma-Québec? *"By working here, we help save lives,"* she says spontaneously. *"Several of my loved ones have required blood at some point in their lives. My son needed blood after a car accident, and, more recently, my grandson needed some for a heart operation. Blood donation has always been very important in my life. It's thanks to blood donation that I have a grandson today,"* she confides with emotion.

Thank you for your priceless support, Ms. Bergeron!

## A COUPLE ALSO PAIRING AS VOLUNTEERS

Josette and Georges Hamel, 78 and 82 years old respectively, are a couple in life and in their volunteer work. Together, they devote so many hours to volunteering with Héma-Québec in the Québec City region that it is almost impossible to keep track. One thing is certain: no matter what day of the week it is, you can always count on the Hamels. These residents of Cap-Rouge are always available and ready to take on any task.

Mrs. Hamel began volunteering at blood drives 25 years ago. About five years later, Mr. Hamel joined her. *"At the beginning, I was a substitute for her. It was Josette who got me involved,"* Mr. Hamel adds with a laugh. *"I can't give blood, so I volunteer,"* he continues. Today, you can meet the couple at the blood drives. Since the beginning of 2005, the duo has been involved at more than 20 blood drives.



The Hamels' commitment isn't limited to blood drives, however. Every Friday, they form a team at the Place Laurier GLOBULE Blood Donor Centre, one working at the reception and the other in the rest area. When asked about her work at the donor centre, Mrs. Hamel confides: *"I like it because it is more informal. We meet some wonderful people there. The donors tell us their stories. That creates a special kind of relationship."*

Last year, Mr. and Mrs. Hamel each devoted some 200 hours to their work at the GLOBULE centre. And since nothing slows them down, they take advantage of their time at the centre to do some other work such as folding letters and preparing mailings.

The couple even takes work home with them. Every month, they prepare a mailing destined for people listed in the Stem Cell Donor Registry. Between January and August 2005, Mr. and Mrs. Hamel devoted 172 hours to the preparation of mailings, which is about 22 hours per month.

And what do they do in their spare time? They enjoy bowling and playing pétanque. Mrs. Hamel even finds more time to volunteer at the Cap-Rouge flea market and its bazaar, and with other Cap-Rouge community services. She is also a regular caller at the Golden Age Club bingos. Her husband participates in air cadet activities, supervising five squadrons of cadets. He also contributes to the annual Guignolée food drive, acting as treasurer.

As they say so well themselves: *"Retired? If you can say so. We have retired from professional life, but not from our volunteer work!"*

A remarkable commitment from Josette and Georges!

# PRESTIGIOUS VISITORS IN QUÉBEC CITY

The America's Blood Centers (ABC) convention was held in Québec City from August 6 to 9, 2005, the first time it has been held outside the United States. The convention brought together several hundred blood bank representatives from numerous American states and from Canada.



Héma-Québec welcomed the convention delegates as part of a visit to its Québec City facility. The evening started with the presentation of a video designed to illustrate the activities that distinguish Héma-Québec: good manufacturing practices, good laboratory practices, research and development as applied to blood collection, the Public Cord Blood Bank and the human tissue bank.



The visitors demonstrated marked interest in Héma-Québec's facilities by openly expressing their enthusiasm and admiration.

# HÉMA-QUÉBEC FOUNDATION

## FIVE YEARS ALREADY

### Gifts and projects

The Héma-Québec Foundation is growing larger and larger. Since 2000-2001—when the first contributions were made—its capital has grown and has now passed the \$1,000,000 mark. The year 2004-2005 has been a particularly generous one. The Foundation received more than \$800,000 in major gifts. These funds enable the Foundation to help Héma-Québec DO MORE, DO IT BETTER and DO IT FASTER.

The Foundation is participating in the financing of the new GLOBULE mobile blood donation unit in collaboration with the Association of Blood Donation Volunteers (ABDV). Moreover, Bayer Inc. and the Fondation du Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal have joined with the Héma-Québec Foundation and ABDV to endow a Chair in Transfusion Medicine at the Université de Montréal. This chair will be devoted primarily to training and research in transfusion medicine.

The Foundation would like to thank all of its donors for their contributions. In particular, we would like to mention Bayer Inc., Pall (Canada) Ltd., Abbott Laboratories, Ltd., and the Association of Blood Donation Volunteers for their contributions in 2004-2005.

### Named funds

During 2004-2005, two named funds were created: the ABDV Fund and the Stem Cell Fund. A named fund is designed to honour the memory of an individual, highlight the financial contribution of an individual or a group, or draw attention to a major project. In each case, the amounts

## HOW TO GIVE?

### GIFTS IN MONEY OR IN KIND:

You can donate, at any time, currency, shares, bonds, life insurance products, a house, property or other assets that the Foundation agrees to accept.

### PLANNED GIVING:

You can make a donation to which the Foundation will not have access until your death. This can be done by the following means:

- A will
- An insurance policy
- A charitable trust

Send your donations to the following mailing address:  
4045 Côte-Vertu Blvd., Saint-Laurent (Québec) H4R 2W7

For more information: (514) 832-5000 or 1-888-666-HEMA (4362), Ext.: 372

contributed to a named fund are only used to finance a specific cause that is dear to the donors' heart.

The ABDV Fund is participating in the financing of the two major projects already mentioned: the mobile donation unit and the Chair in Transfusion Medicine. As for the Stem Cell Fund, it will contribute to establishing measures for accelerating and improving the procedures used to identify stem cell donors who are compatible with recipients as well as increasing the number of donors registered in the Stem Cell Donor Registry.

### New Board of Directors

After five years as the Foundation's Board Chair, Dr. Francine Décary asked to be relieved of her duties. Ms. Monique Lefebvre is the new Chair.



Ms. Lefebvre brings to the Board a diversified experience acquired in the public, parapublic and private sectors. She has held senior executive positions, namely with Ericsson Canada Inc., Quebecor Multimedia Inc., the Centre de recherche informatique de Montréal and the Université du Québec à Montréal. She is also a past or present member of several boards of directors including the boards of

Transcontinental, Desjardins Financial Security, Celmed BioSciences Inc., the Board of Trade of Metropolitan Montreal, Société Innovatech du Grand Montréal, the Canada Foundation for Innovation and the Conseil de la Science et de la Technologie du Québec.

### New signature

The Foundation has a new corporate signature. Since the Foundation is a legal entity distinct from Héma-Québec with its own letters patent and its own board of directors, it was deemed preferable for it to have a distinct logo while at the same time maintaining certain elements of the Héma-Québec logo to link it clearly to the Héma-Québec family. You will gradually see this new signature appear as the Foundation's communications materials are renewed.

The Héma-Québec Foundation accepts donations of various kinds, and issues a receipt for income tax purposes to the donor equivalent to the market value of the donation. For additional information, you are invited to visit the Foundation section of the Héma-Québec Web site at [www.hema-quebec.qc.ca](http://www.hema-quebec.qc.ca).

### MEMBERS OF THE HÉMA-QUÉBEC FOUNDATION'S BOARD

#### Chair

Ms. Monique Lefebvre, Company Director and Consultant

#### Vice-Chair

Dr. Francine Décary, CEO, Héma-Québec

#### Other members

Mr. Robert Bédard, Founder, Association of Blood Donation Volunteers

Mr. Patrick Bérard, Management Consultant

Mr. Pierre Gauthier, Lawyer, Cain Lamarre Casgrain Wells

Mr. Miville Mercier, Engineer

Mr. Claude Pichette, Chief Executive Officer of the Foundation

Mr. André Voyer, Consultant

I would like to make a donation in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_

Complete address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal code: \_\_\_\_\_

Cheque enclosed, to the order of Héma-Québec Foundation

I authorize payment of this amount to be made with my credit card

Credit card: VISA  MASTER CARD

Card number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature (required): \_\_\_\_\_

Do you require a tax receipt? Yes  No

I would like to be advised when there will be a blood drive in my neighborhood

I would like to be involved in the organisation of a blood drive

The Foundation issues receipts for donations of \$20 or more. Complete this leaflet and enclose it in the envelope with your donation.

REGISTRATION NUMBER: 86607 2768 RR0001



# AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF TISSUE BANKS ACCREDITATION

Following a thorough inspection procedure that was carried out at its Québec City facility from February 14 to 16, 2005, Héma-Québec obtained accreditation from the American Association of Tissue Banks (AATB) for collecting, treating, storing and distributing musculoskeletal tissues as well as collecting heart tissues.

According to the auditor, the organization's operations and facilities related to human tissues are substantially compliant with

AATB standards. He made no observations and found no flaws during his audit.

The AATB is a reference in terms of the standards that human tissue banks in North America have the responsibility to meet. By successfully meeting the requirements of the American institution, Héma-Québec joins some 100 establishments worldwide that have obtained this accreditation. As a supplier of blood products, it is the first establishment in Canada to obtain this certification.

This achievement marks a necessary step in the development of Héma-Québec's human tissue collection and distribution network.



## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT HUMAN TISSUE DONATION

From outside the Québec City region, dial:  
1-800-267-9711, ext. 2237

Within the Québec City region, dial:  
1 (418) 780-4362, ext. 2237

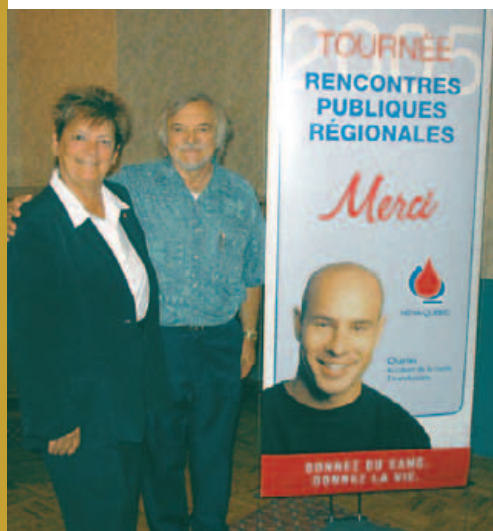
Visit our Web site at [www.hema-quebec.qc.ca](http://www.hema-quebec.qc.ca)



This fall, Héma-Québec will hold several regional public meetings as part of a tour that will take its representatives to 10 cities throughout Québec.

These meetings are part of the Héma-Québec Board's goal to be open and accessible. They allow for the public to review the major actions taken as part of the organization's mandate, and enable community stakeholders and blood drive organizing

committees to understand the importance of their actions in providing sufficient quantities of blood products.



In Baie-Comeau, Dr. Francine Décary, Chief Executive Officer of Héma-Québec with Mr. Richard Staniforth, recipient.

As part of the program, Dr. Francine Décary, Chief Executive Officer and Secretary of the Board of Directors, will provide an overall review of Héma-Québec's 2004-2005 activities. Several Héma-Québec collaborators and some blood product recipients will accompany her for the occasion. The Association of Blood Donation Volunteers will also be represented by its president, Ms. Hélène Darby.

For further information, visit: [www.hema-quebec.qc.ca](http://www.hema-quebec.qc.ca)



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