



copesepb

September 9, 2020

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To all COPE Locals,

I am writing to you to ask for the support of your Local, and your members, to end discrimination and help Canada fight the shortage of blood supply caused by the pandemic by joining MoveUP (Local 378) in signing on to the **All Blood is Equal** campaign at www.allbloodisequal.ca.

In 2018, our Local – inspired by the real-life experience of a member of our Human Rights & Multicultural Committee – began a campaign to call on the Government of Canada to ask Canadian Blood Services (CBS) to stop discriminating against gay men and trans women by ending the blood ban.

Sadly, the blood ban in Canada is not based on science but on old discriminatory ideas stuck in the 1950s. All blood in Canada is tested and is safe. What is not safe is that we have a shortage of blood right now and we are not letting everyone possible help save lives.

The blood ban by CBS stops gay men and trans women from donating blood unless they are celibate for three full months. Yes, if you want to do your civic duty to donate blood you have to stop having sex for one-quarter of a year. There is no science to support the ban just narrow-minded attitudes that we cannot afford especially during the pandemic. MoveUP has fought hard to stop the ban. Our campaign included an official petition delivered to the House of Commons sponsored by NDP MP Randall Garrison. Unfortunately, the ban continues to remain to this day.

Since that time, we have continued our efforts to bring awareness to the cause by bringing the message to various Pride parades and promoting it on our social media channels. But we are not giving up and that's why we are joining a coalition of organizations all across Canada called **All Blood Is Equal** to lend our support.

At our National convention in June 2019, COPE delegates passed a resolution (attached) to hold Prime Minister Trudeau to his promise to end the ban, to encourage COPE members to participate in the campaign to end the ban and to continue to speak about the discriminatory practices of the Federal Liberals and the Canadian Blood Services. I have included a copy of the letter that was sent to the Prime Minister in this regard.

We are encouraging our members to do the following, and hope you can do:

1. Visit allbloodisequal.ca and add your voice to end discrimination.
2. Share the campaign with your friends, family, neighbours, and fellow allies.
3. Consider making a donation to the campaign so they can do more public outreach.

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We thank all our friends in labour who have supported our End the Blood Ban campaign to date, and hope you will continue to support this cause by signing on to the **All Blood Is Equal** campaign.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Black". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "D".

David Black
President, MoveUP
National President, COPE-SEPB

DB:kc

Attach.