Yao wants to repeal NDP’s blood bill to ensure a strong domestic plasma supply for patients.

July 8, 2020

**Fort McMurray, Alberta:** Private Member’s Bill 204 put forward by Tany Yao, MLA for Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo wants to increase the domestic supply of plasma.

“A secure supply of plasma is a cornerstone of a modern twenty-first century health care system. The repeal of the *Voluntary Blood Donations Act* will help patients by making our plasma supply less dependent on international supply which can be unreliable.”

*Tany Yao, MLA Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo*

In 2017, the NDP passed the *Voluntary Blood Donations Act*, which banned everyone except for Canadian Blood Services from paying for plasma and other blood products.

“This past summer, Canada experienced its first ever IG (Immune Globulin) shortage. Please assist in reversing this bill and enabling Alberta and Albertans to contribute to the IG supply.”

*Whitney Goulstone, Executive Director Canadian Immunodeficiencies Patient Organization (CIPO)*

“I was originally scheduled to switch to SCIG (Subcutaneous Immune Globulin) in May 2019. Due to the shortage, this did not happen. Instead, I had to continue traveling to the hospital every 3 weeks, and struggle to care for my 3 young children while recovering from each intravenous infusion. This continued until the end of September 2019 when the shortage eased and Canadian Blood Services began allowing patients to switch to SCIG again.”

“Patients have suffered because of our apathy, and because of the Voluntary Blood Donations Act.”

*Kate van der Meer, SCIG patient*

Canada as a whole only supplies 13.5 per cent of the plasma needed for the production of the IG and other plasma therapies used for the treatment of Canadian patients.

**Media inquiries:**

Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo MLA Tany Yao

Bryce Selzler

Bryce.Selzler@assembly.ab.ca