

# **Blood donors urgently needed to meet patient needs leading up to and following spring break**

**People in Eastern Ontario are urgently needed to give blood in March to help meet patients' needs this spring.**

**MARCH 1, 2018 (OTTAWA)** – Canadian Blood Services has issued an urgent call for Canadians to give blood. 2700 donors in Ottawa and surrounding area are needed to book an appointment and give blood by March 31<sup>st</sup> to ensure all patients continue to have access to the blood and blood products they need.

While the national blood inventory has steadily declined over the winter months, the organization hopes that the arrival of spring will present an opportunity for Canadians to make donating blood part of their routine.

“Canadian patients rely on blood donors to live longer and healthier lives. More than 35,000 donors are needed over the next few weeks across Canada to help meet patient needs this spring,” says Rick Prinzen, Canadian Blood Services’ chief supply chain officer.

Patients like 6-year-old Lincoln Stoate of Constance Bay rely on blood products to help keep their bodies safe. Lincoln was diagnosed with an immune deficiency just shy of his second birthday. He is unable to fight infections and viruses or respond to vaccinations. Lincoln receives weekly infusions of blood product at home which give him a blast of healthy cells, keeping his body safe. Prior to starting this treatment, Lincoln was sick all the time, he now is a healthy and active child who rarely is ill.

“There are thousands of open appointments across Canada over the next two weeks. As we emerge from a particularly challenging winter, we’re asking Canadians to donate blood so that all patients have access to blood when they need it,” concludes Prinzen.

Making an appointment to donate has never been easier. Visit [blood.ca](http://blood.ca), download our GiveBlood app or call 1-888-2-DONATE and find a nearby donation site. Walk in appointments are also available at all locations.

Upcoming local clinics:

Tuesday March 27<sup>th</sup>, Royal Canadian Legion, Renfrew, Branch 148, Renfrew, Clinic Hours: 1 pm to 7 pm

Wednesday March 14<sup>th</sup>, St. John Chrysostom, Arnprior, Clinic Hours: 1 pm to 4 pm & 5 pm to 7:30 pm

Tuesday March 12<sup>th</sup>, Eganville Royal Canadian Legion, Eganville, Clinic Hours: 3 pm to 7 pm

For immediate release

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### **About Canadian Blood Services**

Canadian Blood Services manages the national supply of blood, blood products and stem cells, and related services for all the provinces and territories (excluding Quebec). We operate an integrated, pan-Canadian service delivery model that includes leading an interprovincial system for organ donation and transplantation. Our national scope, infrastructure and governance make us unique in the Canadian healthcare landscape. Canadian Blood Services is regulated as a biologics manufacturer by Health Canada and primarily funded by the provincial and territorial ministries of health. Canadian Blood Services is a not-for-profit charitable organization.



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#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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#### **Tags**

Blood donations, urgent need, spring

#### **Photo caption**

Lincoln receives weekly infusions of blood product at home which give him a blast of healthy cells, keeping his body safe.

