

Community Service Opportunity for Secondary School Students in Canada

Dear Secondary School Communities across Canada –

A unique **Community Service/Involvement Opportunity** is currently available to all public, Catholic, and private Grade 9 to 12 students across Canada. This opportunity enables students to complete community service hours to be counted towards graduation while also possibly saving a life. This activity conforms to the guiding principles outlined by Canadian education ministries and can be completed from the safety of home during evolving pandemic restrictions.

[Canadian Blood Services \(CBS\)](#) is a well-established school-community sponsor who has historically involved high school students in various pre-approved activities, such as blood donation. **Due to tremendous need, CBS is offering activities related to joining the Canadian Stem Cell Registry.**

The registry in Canada is predominantly Caucasian (70%). People of different races and backgrounds are greatly needed to diversify the registry. Canadian students have the ability to transform this landscape for future generations.

Thousands of Canadian students have already participated and accumulated hours through this initiative, and hundreds have actually joined the registry. CBS is actively enhancing this experience with a dedicated logo and website, additional resources, and a streamlined online application process geared towards both secondary and post-secondary institutions for launch in Fall 2022. It is our hope that **Students Saving Lives** will become an annual rite of passage for young Canadians who are willing and able to participate.

There are currently 800 Canadians waiting for a match. My daughter, Hillary, is one of them. One of your students may choose to offer the life-saving gift she requires. I am a well-respected member of my Ottawa community with a Mayor's citation, a Director of Education's Commendation Award, and an international following. I am privileged and honoured to have the opportunity to connect student volunteers with a meaningful way to be of service to their community, through this worthy initiative.

Your feedback is most welcome and greatly appreciated as we strive to improve the ways in which this heroic opportunity is offered to those eligible in Canada.

Thank you.

Yours in community service,



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In partnership with Canadian Blood Services

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In partnership with:



**Canadian
Blood
Services**

BLOOD
PLASMA
STEM CELLS
ORGANS
& TISSUES

Community Service Activities

Students Saving Lives: Diversifying the National Stem Cell Registry

Did you know that you have the power to be a real living hero?

Canadian Blood Services is looking for young adults ages 17-35 to join the **Canadian Stem Cell Registry**. When you join, you give hope to the 800 people in Canada waiting for their match to survive a life-threatening illness. The registry in Canada is predominantly Caucasian (70%). People of different races and backgrounds are greatly needed to diversify the registry. **Canadian students have the ability to transform this landscape for future generations.**

Please consider the following community service activities to enhance your civil awareness as you prepare for graduation. Complete the suggested activities and record the suggested hours. Parents/guardians may approve participation in coordination with the procedures outlined by school Guidance Departments. Canadian Blood Services is not required to confirm participation. Please note that only students age 17 and older may complete Activities 9-10.

Complete Activities 1-8 for five hours of “Stem Cell Education”

- **Activity 1:** Watch Video 1: Stem Cell Donation: <https://youtu.be/V4fVBtxnWfM>
- **Activity 2:** Watch Video 2: Patient and Donor Experience: <https://youtu.be/T9UjhWeYPiA>
- **Activity 3:** Watch Video 3: Stem Cells 101: <https://youtu.be/a9XmQzXeZy0>
- **Activity 4:** Watch Video 4: How to Join the Stem Cell Registry: <https://youtu.be/-5RnJAMZdig>
- **Activity 5:** Watch Video 5: How Stem Cell Donation Works: <https://youtu.be/l62pGP6mMwo>
- **Activity 6:** Watch Video 6: Why Join the Stem Cell Registry: <https://youtu.be/JQhzMFS03ic>
- **Activity 7:** [Read the Stem Cell Donor and Patient Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#)
- **Activity 8:** Reflect on what you’ve learned. Speak with family or friends. Do some of your own research. Consider what impact you could have if you decided to join the registry.

Complete Activities 9-10 for five hours of “Stem Cell Registration”

- **Activity 9:** Register to become a potential stem cell donor. blood.ca/StudentsSavingLives
- **Activity 10:** After registering, a swab kit will be mailed to your home within 2-3 weeks. Swab the inside of your cheeks and return the envelope via mail. All postage is paid.

Thank you for now being aware of the impacts of a robust national stem cell registry!

In partnership with:



How to participate

Complete one or all of the activities and record the suggested hours on your institution's Community Involvement Form. Parents/guardians authorize the completed hours in coordination with the procedures outlined by individual school Guidance Departments. Canadian Blood Services is not required to confirm individual student participation.

The **Students Saving Lives** activity conforms to the guiding principles outlined in the [Ontario Ministry of Education's PPM 124a](#), and can be completed from the safety of home, during evolving pandemic restrictions. The Ministry has reduced the number of hours required to graduate with an OSSD from 40 to 20 for the years 2020-2022. Schools may choose to enhance the activities with additional exercises or increase the number of hours.

Additional resources

Guest speakers for online classroom engagement purposes are available upon request through Canadian Blood Services by email to Chris.VanDoorn@blood.ca.

For those who participated in this initiative during 2021, CBS wants to hear from you! If your school, your Board, or any of your students wish to be featured on the new CBS Students Saving Lives website coming in 2022, let us know! All testimonials are most welcome. Email kmckibbin@startwithhillary.ca or Chris.VanDoorn@blood.ca.

All resources are available on <http://startwithhillary.ca/students-saving-lives/> until CBS launches the new platform at blood.ca/StudentsSavingLives.

All materials are available in French and South Baffin (Inuktitut) upon request.

See also:

- Canadian Blood Services [Patients in Waiting Posters \(English\)](#)
- [Catholic Church gives it's blessing for stem cell research in new book](#)

Media coverage

- [Listen to CTV News Ottawa, May 9, 2021](#)
- [Listen to 580 CFRA Radio Live, May 9, 2021](#)
- [Watch CTV Morning Live: August 13, 2021](#)