

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President
Paul Wilton

Past President
Craig Upshaw

Vice President
Mathieu Jackson

Treasurer
Dianna Cuning

Secretary
Maia Meier

Directors
Shelley Blaquiere
Jeffrey Jerrett
Kathleen Lawday
Monica Mamut
Carmen Nishiyama
Wendy Quinn
John Schmitke
Erin Van Dusen
Rick Waines
Emil Wijnker

National Co-Executive Directors
Hélène Bourgaize
Deborah Franz Currie

Honorary Life Members
Tom Alloway, Ph.D.
Frank Bott
Leni George
Ronald George, Ph.D.
Martin Inwood, MD
John R. (Jack) McDonald, Ph.D.
David Page
Bruce Ritchie, MD
Joyce Rosenthal
Pamela Wilton, RN
Durhane Wong-Rieger, Ph.D.

Founding President
Frank L. Schnabel

AFFILIATION
World Federation of Hemophilia

CHARITABLE REGISTRATION
11883 3094 RR 0001



December 14, 2018

UNSPEAKABLE

Dear members of the Canadian bleeding disorder community,

As you may know, on January 9, 2019, CBC Television will begin to air an eight-part dramatic miniseries about the Canadian tainted blood tragedy. *Unspeakable* is created and co-produced by Rob Cooper, a person with hemophilia infected with hepatitis C through contaminated blood products. The miniseries chronicles the decades-long saga of two fictional families, each with sons with hemophilia, as they struggle to cope with the impact of HIV and hepatitis C contracted through contaminated blood. It is inspired by emotionally charged testimonies of people who lived through this devastating period, the Krever commission report on the Canadian blood system, and the books *The Gift of Death: Confronting Canada's Tainted Blood Tragedy* by André Picard as well as *Bad Blood: The Tragedy of the Canadian Tainted Blood Scandal* by Vic Parsons.

Some members of our community have been involved in different ways in the project, contributing to the high level of realism of the story. Without doubt, it will bring back difficult memories.

It has often been said that the lessons learned in the tainted blood tragedy must not be forgotten and that the pain and suffering experienced by so many must not be in vain. We believe it to be a duty to remember this tragedy that struck our community so hard as well as to make sure younger generations know what happened. Therefore, the CHS welcomes the telling of this story for a TV audience.

Some members may want to watch the première (January 9, at 9 p.m. on CBC) surrounded by others who know what they went through.

To chapter presidents, we invite you to discuss this matter with your Board of Directors and ask them to consider ways they could support, at the local level, the members who will be affected by this miniseries.

We also call upon the bleeding disorder treatment centre staff to be vigilant to their families' possible reactions to the series.

If you want to know more, we invite you to consult the November issue of our magazine, *Hemophilia Today*, which includes a behind-the-scenes look by a member of the community as well as the testimony of author Vic Parsons. Please click on the following link if you would like to read it: bit.ly/2z5UpQm.

Best regards,

Hélène Bourgaize
National Co-Executive Director

Deborah Franz Currie
National Co-Executive Director