Recently the ethics of paying plasma donors has become a nation-wide debate in Canada as many commodification theorists and policy makers have challenged Canada’s stance on the issue. For many years Canada’s approach has been consistent with the widely held view that human bodies and their parts are not the kinds of goods that should be bought and sold, and donors should not be paid despite shortages in plasma. The debate of whether to remunerate donors forms an important part of Canadian policy because a major concern for Canada is to maintain a safe and secure supply of plasma products. Currently, only about 25% of our plasma is collected domestically while the rest is being bought from other nations, mostly from the United States where donors are being paid. This is a problem because if another nation were to outbid Canada, the U.S. could sell their plasma elsewhere cutting off a major portion of Canada’s supply. To help alleviate this issue a private company, Canadian Plasma Resources, has recently opened clinics where donors are being paid, but there has been a public outcry around the idea of private firms profiting from Canadian blood.

Canada is a microcosm of a larger debate on commodification of blood and my research is an attempt to discover an answer to the question of whether Canada should adopt a remuneration model for blood/plasma donation.

In this paper I consider the objections against remuneration models and demonstrate that they are weak or misleading. Furthermore, I explore different remuneration models and show that most are insufficient to improve the security of our plasma supply in Canada. What I draw from this is that the only defensible model, and the one Canada ought to adopt, is a public system of cash-based remuneration.