

GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE

You never know what's waiting for you around the corner. Life is full of uncertainties. And sometimes the uncertainty of needing the gift of life - blood - may be knocking at your doorstep.

Accidents, health problems and, sadly, shootings like the ones that have plagued Toronto, require that blood donations be made on a regular basis.

For those of you who have been involved in a life-threatening accident or required a life-saving surgery, you've needed this gift to save your own.

You know well the importance of donating to Canadian Blood Services. Especially during the summer months. The need for blood doesn't take a summer vacation. Donations tend to decline when people are on summer holidays, but the need keeps coming.

Need for blood doesn't take a summer vacation

In fact, approximately every minute of every day someone in this country requires blood, according to the Canadian Blood Services - a national, not-for-profit charitable organization that manages the supply of blood and blood products in all provinces and territories, except Quebec.

For those of us who haven't relied on its services, there's always a possibility you may need to one day.

Blood donors are a vital link in Canada's lifeline. Canada relies entirely on the generosity and commitment of donors to keep the lifeline going. During National Blood Donor Week (June 10 to 15) and World Blood Donor Day tomorrow (June 14), blood donors are being celebrated across Canada.

More than 100,000 new donors are required this year to help meet the need in Canada. Canadian Blood Services is asking you to lend an arm by donating blood this week or sometime soon.

Donating blood is one of the most direct ways you can help someone. Just one person who is seriously injured in a car crash could need as many as 50 blood donations to help save their life, according to Canadian Blood Services. It can take eight donors a week to help treat a child with leukemia.

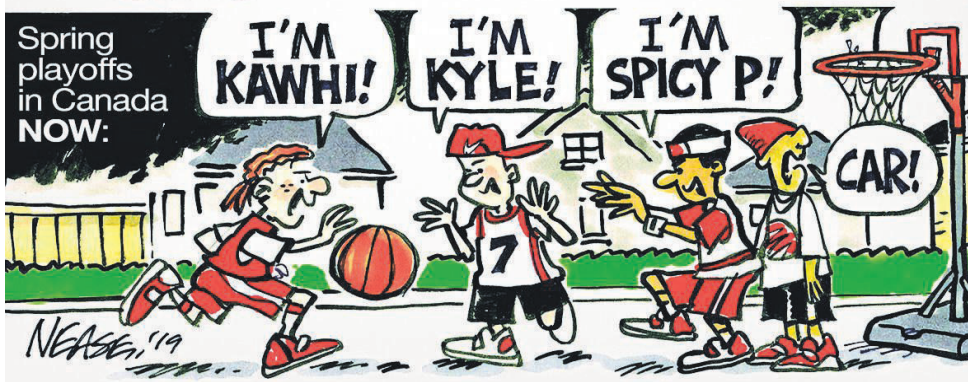
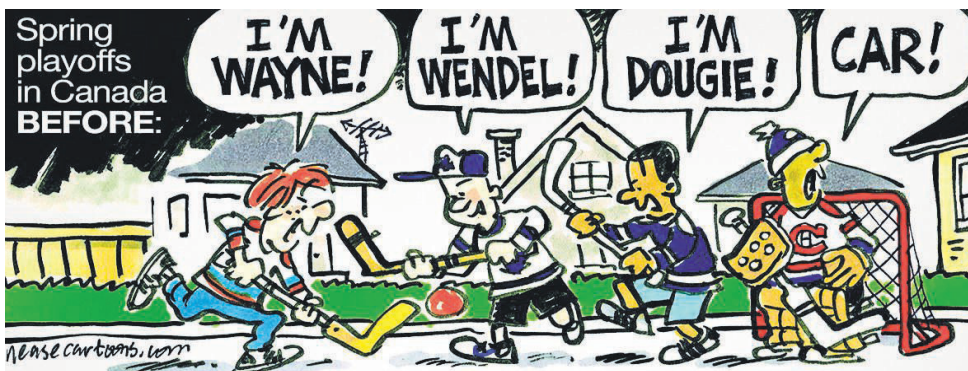
For more information about clinics in your area, or to book an appointment, call 1-888-236-6283 or visit www.blood.ca.

This is your chance to give back.

YOU OPINIONS

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THE FINANCIAL PRESSURES OF THE SINGLE MOTHER

THOSE WHO CARE FOR OUR CHILDREN ARE FACING MORE BARRIERS, WRITES SABIHUDDIN



SARAH SABIHUDDIN
Column

"I cannot afford to put my child somewhere safe during the day in order to work outside of the home to provide economically for my family. Providing a safe environment and good-quality child care for my child is not an option for me due to the high cost of child care in our community."

For a single mother living in Halton, the child-care cost for one in-

fant can consume as much as 44 per cent of their median after-tax income because the average infant spot costs approximately \$1,500 monthly.

This would leave almost no financial flexibility for other essential items such as housing, utilities, food, clothing and other basic necessities.

Ironically, those who care for our children are facing more barriers. Across Canada, 97 per cent of child caregivers are women and one in four require a second job to make ends meet.

Early childhood educators earn 40 per cent less on average than women with similar levels of education working full-time in other sectors.

Making accessible, affordable, high-quality early learning and child

care available to all families across Canada will grow the economy, promote gender equality, increase women's labour force participation and enhance children's well-being and educational achievement.

The benefits of a universal, affordable, child care plan supported and funded by all levels of government would have a positive impact on our society and economy.

The safety, well-being and quality of care of our children should be a topic that all political parties can get behind and support.

The future of our society and economy depends on it.

Sarah Sabihuddin is senior manager of community impact for United Way Halton and Hamilton.

ABOUT US

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newsroom@theifp.ca
IndependentAndFreePress
@IFP_11

WHO WE ARE

Publisher
Kelly Montague
Regional General Manager
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Regional Managing Editor
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Distribution Representative
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Vicki Dillane

CONTACT US

The Independent & Free Press
280 Guelph Street, Unit 77
Georgetown, ON L7G 4B1
Phone: 905-873-0301
Classifieds: 905-234-1016
Fax: 905-873-0398

Letters to the editor

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For all delivery inquiries, please e-mail lpolar@miltoncanadianchampion.com or call 905-234-1019.

