



Photo by STEVE LeBLANC

Staff and students protest a Health Canada blood donor policy outside the E.C. Drury complex. The policy states no third parties, including interpreters, are allowed during donor screening.

No interpreters permitted at blood donor screenings

By IRENE GENTLE
The Champion

Feelings of bad blood have emerged over a cancelled blood donor clinic at the E.C. Drury complex Friday.

The clinic was to be held jointly with the Ernest C. Drury School for the Deaf and E.C. Drury High School.

In its place, students picketed outside the complex, carrying signs

such as 'No Interpreters, No Donations'.

The planned event unravelled over a standard Health Canada (HC) regulation preventing third parties, including interpreters, from being in the room during the screening of donors.

"There's a series of questions that are quite personal," explained Canadian Blood Services (CBS) Vice-President of Marketing and Communications Ian Mumford. "(HC's) concern is the donor may

feel uncomfortable answering some of them (with a third party in the room)."

In order to protect the blood supply, donors are now asked if they have AIDS, have used certain illicit drugs or indulged in specific risky behaviours.

The CBS took over the helm of blood donor clinics about two years ago after it had been rocked by a series of tainted blood scandals.

• see POLICY on page 5

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