

scandal in the 1970s and 1980s that saw thousands of blood recipients contract HIV and hepatitis C.

Dr. Dana Devine, the vice-president of medical and research affairs for Canadian Blood Services, said that in the wake of the new policy "we have no evidence that the blood supply is less safe than it was.

"While we don't know yet whether or not this virus causes this disease, we thought it was an appropriate precautionary measure to take until the science sorts itself out," said Devine. "No one has ever found if this virus has caused any disease in humans."

An estimated 340,000 Canadians have chronic-fatigue syndrome, but Devine said only a tiny fraction of those with disease would have been healthy enough to donate in the first place.

Devine said she expects the new guidelines to take effect by the end of the month.

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<http://www.montrealgazette.com/health/Canada+bans+blood+donations+from+people+with+chronic+fatigue/2775203/story.html>

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