

Beat: Lifestyle

## **QUEBEC PUBLIC MOTHER S MILK BANK Able to Support MORE PREMATURE BABIES**

### **Help From An Unlikely Partner - TOYOTA**

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**USPA NEWS** - Moms are the Everyday Heroes whose Superpower often goes unnoticed, especially when the Life of a Fragile Premature Newborn is at Risk. That's why Organizations like Héma-Québec do what they can to support Mothers who need that Extra Ounce of Courage....

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Héma-Québec's Public Mother's Milk Bank provides Breast Milk donated by New Mothers, to Québec Hospitals caring for Premature Babies born at 32 Weeks or earlier, whose Mothers are unable to breastfeed. Donated Milk helps reduce the Risk of Necrotizing Enterocolitis, a Serious Neonatal Disease that can attack the Digestive System of Babies. Every Year, many Premature Infants contract this Serious Intestinal Disease, and far too often, the Results are Fatal.

In 2017, Toyota partnered with the Milk Bank to help identify Improvement Opportunities at their Production Facility in Montréal, and to help increase the Output of Milk delivered to partner Hospitals across the Province. The Milk undergoes Numerous Steps before being shipped to Local Hospitals.

Héma-Québec's Goal was to achieve an Annual Output of 4,000 Litres of Milk, an Amount that would meet the Needs of Québec's Premature Babies. By learning how to identify and solve Problems using the Principles of the Toyota Production System, Héma-Québec was able to achieve key Improvements such as :

- \* A 20% Increase in the Distribution of Donated Milk to partnering Hospitals from the Milk Bank within one year.
- \* An almost 500% Increase in Capacity of Production Output. Héma-Québec began the Partnership with the Ability to produce a Projected Volume of 700 Litres of Milk per year, and now the Milk Bank is well on its Way to its 4,000-litre per year Goal.
- \* Double the daily production capacity (from one batch production a day to two batches) with the implementation of standardized process steps.

### **New Awareness Campaign Hopes to "Help Bring Them Home"**

Approximately 300 Active Breast Milk Donors on a Constant Basis are required to meet the Needs of Hospitals in Québec. To help meet this Goal, Toyota Canada and Héma-Québec have launched a Public Awareness Campaign. For more Information about Héma-Québec's Public Mother's Milk Bank and how you can help, visit the [hema-quebec.gc.qc.ca](http://hema-quebec.gc.qc.ca) Mothers' Milk Bank page. Héma-Québec is the Only North American Organization that uses the same Facilities to prepare and process Blood Products and Breast Milk for distribution, and the Fourth Organization in Canada to create a Public Mothers' Milk Bank.

(\* ) Photo Cover : Québec Public Mothers' Milk Bank Able to Support More Premature Babies with Help from an Unlikely Partner: Toyota

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