

1 May 2015

The Honourable Dr. Eric Hoskins
Minister of Health & Long-Term Care
10th floor, Hepburn Block, 80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2C4

Re: Provincial Strategy on Lyme Disease

Dear Minister Hoskins:

The Muskoka Lakes Association (MLA) represents over 2300 waterfront property owners in Muskoka. Since 1894 the MLA has worked to promote the responsible use, enjoyment and conservation of the unique Muskoka environment. Our members reside or cottage in Muskoka to enjoy the outdoors in its natural state, and as such, risk being exposed to ticks carrying Lyme disease, a debilitating condition that can escalate quickly from flu-like symptoms to potential neurological illnesses including paralysis.

The Government of Canada currently has data indicating a 79% increase in Lyme disease cases between 2009 and 2013. We are pleased that the Ontario Legislative Assembly has passed a motion asking your department to develop a strategy to enhance public awareness of Lyme disease in Ontario and ensure that all scientifically verified tests and treatment for acute and chronic Lyme diagnoses are available to patients and health care practitioners in Ontario. Further, we understand that this strategy must be completed by November 27, 2015.

We urge you to give priority to this initiative so that cottagers throughout Ontario are kept informed and have access to adequate support in the prevention and treatment of Lyme disease.

Respectfully,



Michael Hart
President

Cc: Ontario Lyme Alliance