

# ONTARIO FEDERATION OF ANGLERS & HUNTERS



*Ontario Conservation Centre*

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February 5, 2015

Dr. Eric Hoskins, MPP  
Minister of Health and  
Long-Term Care  
Hepburn Block, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
80 Grosvenor Street  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 2C4

Dear Minister:

On behalf of the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH), our 100,000 members, subscribers and supporters, and 725 member clubs, we are writing once again to express our serious concerns over the lack of testing, treatment options, public, and medical information regarding acute and chronic Lyme disease.

On December 22, 2011, we wrote to your predecessor regarding this matter. A copy of our letter and the response received are attached for your information. Since that time, we are unaware that any progress has been made with respect to the concerns we outlined at the time. There have also been legislative developments since that time of which we are supportive, and trust that your ministry will be reviewing.

On June 21, 2012, **Elizabeth May, MP Saanich-Gulf, Leader of the federal Green Party, introduced Bill C-442, An Act Respecting a Federal Framework on Lyme Disease** calling upon the federal minister of Health to convene a conference with provincial and territorial ministers responsible for health, along with representatives of the medical community and patients groups, to develop a comprehensive national framework to address the challenges associated with the recognition, diagnosis, and treatment of Lyme disease. The OFAH supported the bill, which received Royal Assent on December 16, 2014.

You will certainly be aware of the more recent introduction of **Bill 27, an Act to require a provincial framework and action plan concerning vector-borne and zoonotic diseases, by Toby Barrett, MPP Haldimand-Norfolk** on October 20, 2014. If passed, the bill will require the minister to develop a provincial framework and action plan to deal with a variety of diseases, including Lyme disease.

As we noted in our original letter to Minister Matthews, despite the potential for Lyme disease to cause serious illness, it is frequently misdiagnosed, due in part to the lack of knowledge on the part of the medical profession and inadequate testing methods.

High deer populations in some areas of Ontario could result in increased levels of exposure to the disease. While deer are considered the primary vector for the spread of the disease, infected ticks can and do attach themselves to a variety of smaller animals and birds, potentially allowing for the spread of the disease throughout the province.

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Minister, over three years have passed since our original correspondence with Minister Matthews, and we would appreciate receiving from you an update on the current status of the government's plans with regard to Lyme disease. Given the serious nature of this and other similar diseases, and the need for concerted action, we would also appreciate knowing if the government will be supporting Mr. Barrett's bill.

Thank you for your time and attention in this matter.

Yours in Conservation,



Angelo Lombardo  
Executive Director



Greg Farrant  
Manager, Government Affairs & Policy

AL/GF/gh  
Encl.

cc: Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier  
Dr. Bob Bell, Deputy Minister, Health and Long-Term Care  
Honourable Dipika Damerla, Associate Minister of Health and Long-Term Care  
Elizabeth May, MP  
Toby Barrett, MPP  
Dr. David Mowat, Chief Medical Officer of Health  
OFAH Board of Directors  
Matt DeMille, OFAH Manager, Fish & Wildlife Services