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## ONTARIO SOIL AND CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

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April 16, 2015

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

### **Provincial Strategy on Lyme Disease**

Dear Minister Hoskins:

The Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) is a unique non-profit farm organization with active clubs in 50 counties and districts across the province. Our members are primarily full-time production farmers. Their chosen vocation means many are working outdoors on the land. The risk of being exposed to ticks carrying Lyme disease is very real, and according to the Public Health Agency of Canada, the risk is escalating.

We were very pleased to learn your Ministry has been tasked with developing a provincial strategy for Lyme disease before the end of November, 2015. Ontario needs to see changes to the way Lyme disease is diagnosed, tested and treated. Many of us know of at least one person who has contracted the terrible disease. We have heard the issues around how the disease is often misdiagnosed and the pain and discomfort that is inflicted.

A provincial strategy is important to our members and their families. We urge you to give priority to your government's commitment to its development.

Respectfully,

Alan Kruszel  
President, OSCIA

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