



Ontario Fur Managers Federation

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February 11, 2015

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

Dear Minister Hoskins:

On behalf of the OFMF, our 6000 members and their family members; I would ask your Ministry and Government to immediately develop a provincial strategy for Lyme disease. We were pleased that the motion presented by MPP Mike Mantha to the Ontario Legislature on November 27, 2014 was carried unanimously by all three parties. The debate and lack of action on Lyme disease in Ontario has led to irreversible health issues in Ontario residents, including our members and has caused many individuals to seek medical testing and treatment in the United States. We find it very deplorable and unacceptable that our Ontario Health System would not officially recognize Lyme disease or test and treat individuals who showed symptoms of Lyme disease until recently. The fact that people of Ontario had to pay for testing in another country and then when diagnosed could not find a Doctor in Ontario who could prescribe the proper medication in the dosage amounts and amount of time to be prescribed to treat Lyme is unacceptable. We have been informed by individuals that they could not receive the proper treatment as a result of the Government and Ministry of Health policies and directives.

Our members and their families have an increased risk of exposure to infected ticks as they are in the outdoor environment on a year round basis. The OFMF has read the motion that was carried and understands that your Ministry has to develop a strategy for Lyme disease by November 27, 2015. The people of Ontario need and deserve action on a strategy along with a change in policies for proper detection and treatment of this disease immediately. Too many people have suffered and endured this disease and because of lack of diagnosis and treatment, will never fully recover as a result of the late stage of this disease.

We ask Minister Hopkins, that you direct the medical community to allow the laboratories and clinics to start conducting the testing to diagnosis this disease now. Please do not wait a full year until the strategy is tabled in the Ontario Legislature. Time is of the essence for the people that have been infected by ticks.

Sincerely for the future health of all Ontarians;

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "J. Fitchett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Fitchett
OFMF President

cc. OFMF Board of Directors
Ontario Lyme Alliance