

Toronto Field Naturalists

2 Carlton Street, Suite 1519, Toronto, ON M5B 1J3

March 24, 2015

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

Dear Dr. Hoskins,

I am writing as President of the Toronto Field Naturalists. We are an all-volunteer charitable organization that has been active since 1923 in connecting people with nature in Toronto. We offer over 150 free guided nature walks each year, organize a monthly lecture series (eight times per year), publish a monthly Newsletter (eight times per year), and maintain a website with information about Toronto's natural heritage. Our walks take place in Toronto's parks, ravines and along the waterfront, so our members, as well as the general public, are exposed to the natural world for extended periods of time. Many of our members are active bird-watchers and field botanists and so visit many of Ontario's parks and other natural areas over the course of the year.

As members of the Toronto Field Naturalists, we are concerned about our increased risk of exposure to infected ticks and urge you, as Minister of Health and Long Term, to give priority to developing a provincial strategy to address the risks of Lyme disease going undetected, develop the capacity for blood testing for Lyme disease in Ontario, and to update the treatment guidelines for Lyme disease.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely

Nancy Dengler
President, Toronto Field Naturalists

Copy: Ontario Lyme Alliance