September 20, 2016

The Honourable Dr. Jane Philpott  
Health Canada  
70 Colombine Driveway  
Tunney’s Pasture  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0K9

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

Dear Honourable Ministers:

Re: Lyme Disease

At its meeting held on September 14, 2016, the Board of Health for Peterborough Public Health considered correspondence from Grey Bruce Health Unit and Niagara Region regarding the above noted matter.

In the past few years, Lyme disease (LD) has surpassed West Nile virus as the predominant vector-borne disease of concern in the province of Ontario. In the past six years, in Peterborough County and City, we have seen an increase in the number of tick submissions, with a corresponding increase in ticks that have tested positive for LD.

However, the current financial and human resources to continue with the increased public consultations on tick submissions are inadequate, and therefore, we are requesting that the Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario increase funding in the areas of research, treatment, surveillance and education for LD. For this reason, our board has endorsed the attached motions from our Ontario board of health colleagues.

The Board appreciates your attention to this important public health issue.

Yours in health,

Original signed by

Scott McDonald  
Chair, Board of Health

/at
Encl.

cc: Hon. Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario  
Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health, MOHLTC
Maryam Monsef, MP, Peterborough-Kawartha
Kim Rudd, MP, Northumberland-Peterborough South
Jamie Schmale, MP, Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock
Jeff Leal, MPP, Peterborough
Laurie Scott, MPP, Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock
Association of Local Public Health Agencies
Ontario Boards of Health
June 2, 2016

The Honourable Dr. Jane Philpotts
Health Canada
70 Colombine Driveway
Tunney’s Pasture
Ottawa, ON K1A 0K9

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

Dear Ministers:

Re: Lyme Disease

On May 27, 2016, the Board of Health for the Grey Bruce Health Unit passed the following resolution.

Resolution No: 2016-52

Moved by: Gary Levine Seconded by: David Shearman

WHEREAS, the blacklegged tick, Ixodes scapularis, is expanding into new areas of Ontario, and can carry the bacteria, Borrelia burgdorferi, which causes Lyme disease; and

WHEREAS, people who are infected with Borrelia burgdorferi, may develop Lyme disease which can cause long-term consequences if not treated properly;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health for the Grey Bruce Health Unit requests the Province of Ontario to increase funding to enhance environmental surveillance for the tick;

AND FURTHER THAT the Province of Ontario monitor the pattern of spread of the tick and the rate of tick infection in various areas of the province;

AND FURTHER THAT the Province of Ontario develop control measures for the tick;

AND FURTHER THAT the Province of Ontario increase the education to the population regarding personal protection, property management, testing and treatment.

Carried
Sincerely,

Hazel Lynn MD, FCFP, MHSc
Medical Officer of Health

Cc: Hon. Jody Wilson-Raybould, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
   Hon. Jane Philpott, Minister of Health
   Hon. Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario
   Hon. Madeleine Meilleur, Attorney General for Canada
   Larry Miller, MP Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound
   Benn Lobb, MP Huron-Bruce
   Kellie Leitch, MP Simcoe-Grey
   Bill Walker, MPP Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound
   Lisa Thompson, MPP Huron-Bruce
   Jim Wilson, MPP Simcoe-Grey
   Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health (Interim)
   Linda Stewart, Executive Director, Association of Local Public Health Agencies
   Pegeen Walsh, Executive Director, Ontario Public Health Association
   Dr. Catherine Zahn, President and CEO, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
   All Ontario Boards of Health

Encl.
May 9, 2016

The Honourable Dr. Jane Philpotts  
Health Canada  
70 Colombine Driveway  
Tunney's Pasture  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0K9

Sent via email: hon.jane.philpott@canada.ca

RE: Lyme Disease  
Minute Item 9.3, CL 6-2016, April 28, 2016

Dear Ministers:

Regional Council at its meeting held on April 28, 2016, passed the following resolution:

Whereas the number of cases of ticks positive for Lyme disease is increasing throughout Ontario and specifically in Niagara Region;

Whereas the laboratory testing for and diagnosis of Lyme disease is sub-optimal; and

Whereas there are chronic sufferers of long term consequences of this disease.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That Niagara Region REQUEST the Province of Ontario to increase funding for research aimed to enhance the testing for Lyme disease;

2. That Niagara Region REQUEST the Government of Canada to increase funding for research aimed to enhance the testing for Lyme disease and determine better treatment for long term outcomes of Lyme disease;

3. That this resolution BE FORWARDED to all Municipalities in Ontario for their endorsement; and

4. That this resolution BE FORWARDED to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Health and local Members of Provincial Parliament.
The Hon. Dr. J. Philpotts and  
The Hon. Dr. E. Hoskins  
Lyme Disease  
May 9, 2016  
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Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Yours truly,

Ralph Walton  
Regional Clerk

cc: The Honourable K. Wynne, Premier of Ontario Sent via email: kwynne.mpp@liberal.ola.org  
W. Gates, MPP (Niagara Falls) Sent via email: wgates-co@ndp.on.ca  
The Honourable R. Nicholson, MP (Niagara Falls) Sent via email: rob.nicholson@parl.gc.ca  
T. Hudak, MPP (Niagara West) Sent via email: tim.hudakco@pc.ola.org  
D. Allison, MP (Niagara West) Sent via email: dean.allison@parl.gc.ca  
The Honourable J. Bradley, MPP (St. Catharines) Sent via email: jbradley.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org  
C. Bittle, MP (St. Catharines) Sent via email: chris.bittle@parl.gc.ca  
C. Forster, MPP (Welland) Sent via email: cforster-op@ndp.on.ca  
V. Badawey, MP (Niagara Centre) Sent via email: vance.badawey@parl.gc.ca  
All Ontario Municipalities Sent via email