



Ontario Federation of Agriculture

Ontario AgriCentre

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May 11, 2015

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 you today on behalf of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) with regards to the unanimous passage of a motion in the Ontario Legislature on November 27th, 2014 supporting the development of a provincial strategy for Lyme Disease.

OFA is the largest general farm organization in Ontario, representing over 37,000 farm families across the province. We represent the interests of farmers and farm families throughout Ontario. Our members and their families are susceptible to Lyme disease by the nature of our work.

On behalf of Ontario farmers we urge you to make the development of a Provincial Lyme Disease Strategy a priority within your Ministry. We would like this strategy to recognize Lyme Disease as serious disease. It should consider means of improving diagnosis and treatment, as well as increased education and outreach to both physicians and the public about the disease.

We urge you to work with the appropriate groups to ensure the strategy will work towards prevention of contracting the disease, as well as appropriate means of quickly diagnosing and treating the disease.

Ontario's farmers are the stewards of our land, providing fresh, high quality food to our great Province and beyond, as well as providing a significant contribution to the economy. They must be able to continue this work without the fear of being debilitated due to the bite of an infected tick.

I trust our opinions and recommendations will be given due consideration.

Sincerely,

Don McCabe
President

cc: Michael Mantha, MPP mmantha-gp@ndp.on.ca
Ontario Lyme Alliance contact@ontariolymealliance.ca