



Bob
BAILEY
MPP • Sarnia-Lambton

PETITION

TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

WHEREAS, the tick-borne illness known as Chronic Lyme Disease, which mimics many catastrophic illnesses, such as Multiple Sclerosis, Crohn's, Alzheimer's, arthritic diabetes, depression, Chronic Fatigue and Fibromyalgia is increasingly endemic in Canada, but the scientifically validated diagnostic tests and treatment choices are currently *not* available in Ontario, forcing patients to seek these in the USA and Europe;

WHEREAS, the *Canadian Medical Association* informed the public, governments, and the medical profession in May 30, 2000 edition of their professional journal that **Lyme Disease is endemic throughout Canada**, particularly in Southern Ontario;

WHEREAS, the Ontario Public Health system and the Ontario Health Insurance Plan currently do not fund those specific tests that accurately serve the process for establishing a clinical diagnosis, but only recognize testing procedures known in the medical literature to provide false negatives 45 to 95% of the time;

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, petition the legislative assembly of Ontario to request the Minister of Health to direct the Ontario Public Health system and OHIP to include all currently available and scientifically verified tests for Acute and Chronic Lyme diagnosis, to do everything necessary to create public awareness of Lyme Disease in Ontario, and to have internationally developed diagnostic and successful treatment protocols available to patients and physicians.

Name (print clearly):	Address:
Signature:	Town/City:
E-mail Address:	Postal Code:

Name (print clearly):	Address:
Signature:	Town/City:
E-mail Address:	Postal Code:

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Signature:	Town/City:
E-mail Address:	Postal Code:

To date I have presented to six municipal councils and I am on the agenda of other municipalities in southern Ontario. I am also contacting all the municipalities in the province on this issue. Lambton County, Chatham Kent, Oxford County, Perth County, Middlesex and Huron County have endorsed the petition. Middlesex is reaching out to various advocacy groups that council members are a part of on the public's behalf on this issue. As well as endorsing the petition the County of Huron has sent a letter to Premier McGuinty asking him for action on "this very distressing disease that is affecting the livelihood of residents in Ontario". Chatham Kent is sending a letter to the Minister of Health to ask for action. The County of Perth is forwarding their support to their local MP and MPP to inform both the provincial and federal representatives for that area of their concern on this issue on behalf of the citizens that they represent.

My hope is that all municipal governments can lend their clout to this petition. It won't be long before everyone is affected in one way or another by this insidious disease. In the US this disease is now being called an epidemic by many health officials and its moving North. We need a strong response from our elected officials who are responsible for the public health of all the citizens of Ontario and Canada.

Thank you for taking the time to investigate this very urgent Public health issue.

Christine Heffer

Up dated list of MUNICIPALITIES endorsing the petition

Vaughan 300 000
Oro Medonte 18 000
Huron 59325
Perth 74344
Middlesex 69024
Lambton 128204
Oxford 102756
Chatham Kent 108177
Uxbridge 19169
Pickering 100273
Red Lake 4526
Smooth Rock Falls 1473
Quinte West 42697
Georgian Bluffs 10406
Huron Kinloss 6515
Mulmur 3318
Chatsworth 6392
Perry Sound 5818
North Kawarta 2342
Nation 10643
Loyalist 15062
Archipelago 576
Peterbrough 133080
Wainfleet 6601
magnetawan 1610
North Stormont 6769
stratford 32000
sequin 4276
gwillimburg 21069
stirling rawdon 2139
Gilles 28260
Cavan Monaghan 8828
Peterbrough 133080
Orangeville 26925
Highlands East 3089
Killarney 454
Nairn and Hyman 493
Limerick 3838
Drummond 6203
Temagami 934
French River 2659
Norfolk 62563