

PETITION TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED

We, the undersigned, citizens of Canada draw the attention of the House to the following:

THAT,

Whereas Lyme disease is an illness caused by the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi* that is spread to humans and animals through the bite of certain types of ticks and that can have serious consequences if left untreated, including recurring attacks of arthritis and neurological problems;

Whereas numerous peer-reviewed scientific studies have warned that a warming climate will expand the geographic range of Lyme disease carrying ticks further into Canada, including a 2012 paper by Leighton et al., which states that over 80% of the population in Eastern and Central Canada could be living in areas at risk of Lyme disease by 2020;

Whereas Canadians will benefit from the establishment of a national standard of care for the treatment of Lyme disease, a coordinated national effort to track the spread of the disease, and increased public education and awareness to better prevent and detect instances of Lyme disease in Canada;

Whereas recent research further demonstrates the persistence of *Borrelia* spirochetes after antibiotic treatment that follows the guidelines used in Canada (Embers et al., 2012) and indicates that current serology does not adequately describe the diversity of *Borrelia* bacteria existing in Canada and that the general understanding of, and practices for dealing with, Lyme disease are no longer sufficient or in line with emerging evidence of how the disease operates (Ogden et al., 2011);

And whereas the current guidelines in Canada are based on those in the United States and are so restrictive as to severely limit the diagnosis of acute Lyme disease and deny the existence of continuing infection, thus abandoning sick people with a treatable illness;

THEREFORE,

Your petitioners call on the Government of Canada to,

Support the passage of Elizabeth May's Bill C-442, the *National Lyme Disease Strategy Act*, which would convene a national conference with provincial and territorial health ministers, representatives of the medical community, and patients' groups, for the purpose of developing a national strategy that work towards ensuring the recognition, timely diagnosis, and effective treatment of Lyme disease in Canada.

Signature [sign your own name, do not print] Addresses [full with city and province]

Petition Guidelines

1. Each petitioner must sign, not print, their name directly on the petition.
2. Each signature must contain either: full address, city and province, **OR** province and postal code.
3. A petition must contain original signatures written directly on the document and not pasted, taped, photocopied or otherwise transferred to it.
4. A petition should contain signatures of residents of Canada only.
5. There is no minimum age requirement for anyone signing a petition.
6. If a petitioner cannot sign because of illness or a disability, this must be noted on the petition and the note signed by a witness. Aside from this exception, you can only sign for yourself.

Please return all signed petitions, postage free, to:

Elizabeth May, MP

518 Confederation Building

House of Commons

Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Please email elizabeth.may@parl.gc.ca or call 613-996-1119 if you have any questions.