

OPEN DELEGATION REQUEST

PLEASE PRINT

SUBJECT: <i>Lyme Disease Testing & Treatment Options</i>	
PREFERRED DATE: <i>Sept 12, 2011 7pm</i>	ALTERNATE DATE:
NAME: <i>Jessica Talbana</i>	
EMAIL ADDRESS:	
STREET ADDRESS:	
City	Postal Code
PHONE:	HOME: BUSINESS:
FAX:	WORK ADDRESS:
NAME OF GROUP OR PERSON(S) BEING REPRESENTED (if applicable), INCLUDING THE PERSON(S) WHO WILL BE SPEAKING AND/OR PRESENT AT THE MEETING: <i>Jessica Talbana</i>	
BRIEF STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF THE OPEN DELEGATION: <i>To ask council to endorse a petition started by mrl Bob Bailey requesting the laws around the rules for the testing of Lyme disease to be changed. We need improved education and treatment options.</i>	

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City of Barrie, City Clerk's Office
70 Collier Street, P.O. Box 400, Barrie, L4M 4T5
Tel: 705 739-4204 Fax: 739-4243
www.barrie.ca

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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:
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Posted: Thu Jul 28, 2011 12:19 pm Post subject: An update on the Ontario Petition 

Here are the municipalities that have endorsed the petition so far. There has been a lot of media coverage in Ontario and public health is starting to come back. I will copy the letters as things seem to be heating up

MUNICIPALITIES

- Huron
- Perth
- Middlesex
- Lambton
- Oxford
- Chatham Kent
- Uxbridge
- Pickering
- Red Lake
- Smooth Rock Falls
- Quinte West
- Georgian Bluffs
- Huron Kinloss
- Mulmur
- Chatsworth
- Perry Sound
- North Kawarta
- Nation Loyalist
- Archipelago

TOTAL POPULATIONS 771040

Here are some of the articles:

<http://www.stratfordgazette.com/news/article/99541>

<http://www.stratfordgazette.com/editorial/article/99773>

<http://www.stthomastimesjournal.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=3226389>

<http://www.stthomastimesjournal.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=3228135>

<http://fftimes.com/node/244484>

I am waiting to talk to the reporter about a response. I was not impressed. I hope the paper will do a response since it is about me.

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Press Release – March 29, 2011

Confidential Government Report Raises Alarm about Lyme Disease in BC

Vancouver, BC ~ A confidential internal report commissioned by the British Columbia government on Lyme disease was released today by patient advocates. The report, which raises numerous red flags regarding the treatment of Lyme disease in BC, was obtained through a freedom of information request.

The confidential report revealed:

- "The majority of GP's lack knowledge about Lyme disease,"
- "Testing is poor . . . better testing is needed to prevent progression to a chronic disease,"
- "No treatment for chronic Lyme disease patients,"
- "The true incidence of Lyme disease in BC is unknown"
- "The current state of diagnostic methods for Chronic Lyme and other related infections is inadequate."

The provincial government has been under intense scrutiny regarding its management of Lyme disease, a serious tick-borne infection. Patient advocates have long argued that the disease is under-diagnosed and under-reported in BC due to faulty blood tests and doctor ignorance, leaving patients to fend for themselves or pay for treatment in the United States. The BC government has countered that blood tests are state-of-the-art, doctors are well-informed, and that Lyme disease is a rare and easily treated condition.

"This report confirms what Lyme disease patients in BC have been saying all along: that blood tests are poor and it is almost impossible to get adequate treatment here," said Gwen Barlee, a Lyme disease sufferer. "The government did the right thing by commissioning the report and now they need to follow through and act on the recommendations. People are desperate for the government to take real action on this issue."

The report, *Chronic Lyme Disease in British Columbia – A Review of Strategic and Policy Issues*, was authored by Brian Schmidt, senior Vice-President of the BC Provincial Health Services Authority. The report was presented to John Dyble, the former Deputy Minister of Health, in May of 2010. John Dyble was recently appointed the head of Public Service by Premier Christy Clark.

The 55-page document is critical of the management and treatment of Lyme disease in BC and makes numerous recommendations to improve the diagnosis and treatment of Lyme disease in BC, including "adoption of more advanced technologies that BC could lead the nation in developing," implementing a range of flexible treatment options for patients, improving the diagnosis and treatment of Acute and Chronic Lyme disease as well as improving public and physician education about the disease.

"Schmidt recommends greater vigilance, better diagnostics and support for doctors willing to treat patients at any phase of the illness using antibiotics and other therapies", said CanLyme Director David Cubberley. "The contrast with current practices, which miss Lyme in the acute phase and dismiss it entirely in the chronic phase, couldn't be sharper."

Lyme disease is the most common tick-borne disease in North America. The disease takes its name from Lyme, Connecticut, where it was first identified in the 1970s. Lyme disease can become a chronic and serious illness if left untreated so early antibiotic treatment is essential. Untreated, Lyme disease can affect the joints, the heart and the nervous system and is much more difficult to treat. Southern BC is endemic for ticks that carry Lyme disease.

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For more information please call:

David Cubberley, Canadian Lyme Disease
Foundation Director, 250-818-1129