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The Honorable Eric Hoskins, Minister Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care 10th Floor, Hepburn Block 80 Grosvenor Street Toronto, ON M7A 2C4

November 20, 2017

Dear Minister Hoskins,

I believe that naturopathic physicians in Ontario should have the privilege of prescribing antimicrobials, when clinically necessary. Lyme disease patients across this province cannot get timely health care from the allopathic medical community. Most physicians are afraid to diagnose and treat Lyme disease because they fear the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (CPSO) will investigate them.

In British Columbia (BC), naturopathic physicians can prescribe antimicrobials. Lyme disease patients are no different in BC than they are in Ontario.

Naturopaths are highly trained health-care practitioners. As a profession, they are interested in Lyme disease, and their licensing college will allow them to treat by the International Lyme and Associated Diseases Society (ILADS) treatment guidelines.

Naturopathic physicians are well-schooled in the management of Lyme disease and associated, tick-borne co-infections. For example, naturopaths in Ontario can currently prescribe some bio-identical hormones. It is well documented that Lyme disease adversely affects the endocrine system. Also, naturopaths are very familiar with detoxification protocols. When the Lyme disease bacterium is killed, it releases neurotoxins that the body has to detoxify. As well, naturopaths know how to protect the gut flora when antibiotics are prescribed.

Currently, there are 3000+ Lyme disease patients going to the U.S. for diagnosis and treatment. The average wait time to see a Lyme-literate physician in Ontario can be up to two years. If the naturopathic profession were allowed to prescribe antimicrobials, this would greatly reduce the wait times.

I am requesting that you expedite legislation in Ontario that will allow naturopathic physicians to prescribe antimicrobials. Lyme disease patients desperately need a health-care professional who will "step up to the plate", and diagnose and treat them. Minister Hoskins, we have a health care crisis in Ontario.

Yours truly,

 xc: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, MPP

 xc: Mr. Andrew Parr, Registrar, The College of Naturopaths of Ontario

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