

Ms. Christine Elliot
Minister of Health
5th Floor, 777 Bay Street
Tronton ON M7A 2J3

February 25, 2021

cc: Dr. Nancy Whitmore

College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario
80 College Street, Toronto ON M5G 2E2

cc: R. Honourable Doug Ford
Premier's Office
Room 281
Legislative Building, Queens Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Ms. Elliot,

As a patient of [REDACTED], I was shocked and saddened to hear that [REDACTED] may no longer be able to treat patients like myself, with chronic lyme disease, which can only be treated by a protocol of supplements and antibiotics.

If my treatment is no longer attainable, I have nowhere else to turn to.

It would literally take me hours to explain my journey with lyme disease which started in 2006, how it has impacted my life for the past 15 years and resulted in my being an invalid.

Needless to say I have been on many protocols through naturopaths and an internal medicine physician. I was lucky enough to get an IV of Ceftriaxone in [REDACTED] it was 11 months of treatment which did save my life.

Unfortunately after 3 years, my symptoms started to return, there are approx 45 symptoms of lyme disease, which is extremely hard to detect, especially since the testing here in Canada is outdated and unreliable. For example, if someone gets bitten, has a bullseye rash and goes to emerg. Chances are that person will be put on abx immediately and make a full recovery. However, if the test comes back negative and a G.P. refuses to prescribe abx based on physical symptoms, then the bacteria is left to spread throughout all the organs, it is so debilitating, I hardly got out of bed for first 2 years.

I had a full knee replacement done in [REDACTED] and for first 3 years I was mobile again and feeling good because I had just finished Ceftriaxone treatment. However, unfortunately the bacteria returned in [REDACTED] and I now rely on a stairlift in my home and a wheelchair for any outing. I have been told that I now have an auto immune disease, lupus, fibromyalgia and persistent lyme disease.

I am about to start a new protocol with [REDACTED], I am very excited to do so as this formula is aimed at attacking the persistent lyme and eradicating it. Once again, I have high hopes for regaining mobility. If this hope is taken away from me, I have nowhere else to turn to.

If you know of anyone personally who has lyme disease, you will know how much they suffer every day, it is such an insidious and cruel illness and the pain I live with is off the charts every single day.

I am so disappointed that CPSO has not given lyme patients the same fundamental right to treatment and a cure, the same as any heart patient, cancer patient, MS patient, Parkinsons, stroke etc. The list goes on. Lyme has been ignored since goodness knows how long, I can only speak for myself and the past 15 years having relied on internal medicine physicians, naturopaths and integrative medicine clinics. My illness should have been treated by an infectious disease specialist and I should have been given antibiotics right away. Instead CPSO seems to have no interest in understanding and researching lyme disease, so that all doctors can be lyme literate and instead of patients going to the States in droves, paying \$\$\$\$\$\$, for treatment, that they be treated here in Canada.

If you contact The Lyme Disease Association of Ontario website, perhaps you can find out the stats for patients in Ontario alone, this might just open your eyes to the significant numbers.

Just try to imagine having a small child, or a teenager or even a young adult, who gets infected with lyme. Their life has just been sucked right out of them, they are unable to function because they are just too ill. How would it make you feel if your child could not get the treatment they needed in Canada? I think I know how you would feel.

So I am pleading with you to please allow [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]), to continue to do the outstanding work that they do here in [REDACTED].

Maybe once this pandemic is behind us, you will take the time to investigate lyme disease, research it and educate all doctors on clinical diagnosis and treatment.

There is supposed to be an initiative in place re. Lyme, how it is contracted and how to treat it, however I don't hear of anyone being treated by a G.P. or infectious disease specialist in Ontario.

Yours sincerely,