

September 22, 2026

Via Email

The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health, Province of Ontario
The Honourable Marjorie Michel, Minister of Health, Government of Canada
The Honourable Jill Dunlop, Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response and
MPP for Simcoe North
Adam Chambers, MP for Simcoe North

**Re: Support for Continued Research, Clinical Guidance, and Access to Care for
Individuals Experiencing Persistent Lyme-Related Illness**

At its meeting held on September 14, 2026, the Council of the Township of Ramara adopted the following resolution regarding persistent Lyme-related illness and access to care. Council respectfully requests your consideration and support of this resolution.

Resolution Number CR.221.2026

Moved by Jennifer Fisher

Seconded by Joe Gough

WHEREAS Lyme disease is a growing public health concern in Ontario and across Canada due to the expanding range of tick populations and increasing incidence of tick-borne illnesses;

AND WHEREAS early diagnosis and treatment of Lyme disease are essential to reducing the risk of long-term health complications;

AND WHEREAS some individuals continue to experience persistent, debilitating symptoms following recommended treatment for Lyme disease, significantly affecting their quality of life, ability to work, and overall well-being;

AND WHEREAS Lyme disease is recognized and insured under the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP), but Canada has not adopted a nationally accepted clinical definition of "chronic Lyme disease," and current Canadian clinical guidance instead recognizes Post-Treatment Lyme Disease Syndrome (PTLDS);

AND WHEREAS the absence of a nationally accepted definition for persistent Lyme-related illness may contribute to inconsistencies in diagnosis, treatment options, physician education, access to care, and publicly funded services for affected patients;

AND WHEREAS municipalities have an interest in advocating for equitable access to healthcare services that improve the health and well-being of their residents;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Ramara calls upon the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada to collaborate with medical experts, researchers, healthcare providers, and patient representatives to:

- Continue research into persistent symptoms following Lyme disease and emerging evidence related to long-term outcomes;
- Review existing clinical guidance as new scientific evidence becomes available;
- Enhance physician education and awareness regarding the diagnosis and management of patients experiencing persistent Lyme-related symptoms;
- Improve access to multidisciplinary assessment and care for individuals experiencing ongoing symptoms following Lyme disease; and
- Review current funding policies and access to medically necessary diagnostics and treatments, where supported by emerging evidence and best clinical practice;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council requests the Province of Ontario advocate to the Government of Canada for continued national leadership in developing evidence-informed guidance on persistent Lyme-related illness;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to request support from:

- Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health, Province of Ontario;
- Marjorie Michel, Minister of Health, Government of Canada;
- Public Health Agency of Canada;
- Association of Municipalities of Ontario;
- Rural Ontario Municipal Association;
- Jill Dunlop, Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response and MPP for Simcoe North;
- Adam Chambers, MP for Simcoe North; and
- All Ontario municipalities.

CARRIED.

The Township of Ramara respectfully requests your support for this resolution.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Nate Harrington
Assistant Clerk

Cc. Public Health Agency of Canada
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA)

Bcc. All Ontario Municipalities