Dear Minister Petitpas Taylor, October 25th, 2017

On behalf of our new organization, LymeHope, Jennifer Kravis and I would like to congratulate you on your new portfolio heading up the Ministry of Health, as well as introduce ourselves.

LymeHope is our national, not-for-profit organization with dedicated goals of education and outreach to all stakeholders, including Government, Public Health, medical professionals and the general public.  In addition, we strive to create avenues for the collective patient experience to be shared and work to elevate the unmet needs and serious concerns of many Lyme patients who are sick and disabled and continue to feel marginalized and ignored.

On August 22, 2017, Ms. Kravis and I had the opportunity to meet with Minister Jane Philpott, Jordan Crosby and Dr. Theresa Tam, where we brought forward more than 2,700 personal letters from Canadians, as well as 50,500 signatures and over 12,000 comments on the Ticking Lyme Bomb Petition (<http://bit.ly/2lfBuNL>).  The number of signatures and comments continues to rise each and every day signaling the real concerns which Canadians share coast to coast regarding Lyme disease.

In our meeting, we were invited to engage and collaborate in an ongoing manner with Public Health Agency of Canada as well as the Ministry of Health as a trusted resource and partner.  We take this partnership seriously and count it a privilege to stand in the gap and to represent the collective voice and suffering of Canadian Lyme sufferers.

On September 13, 2017, Jennifer had the opportunity to represent LymeHope at a patient round table which was hosted by the Public Health Agency of Canada.   We were very pleased that both Dr. Tam and Dr. Mitthani stated their ongoing commitment to patient engagement with respect to the implementation of the Federal Lyme Framework.

We are appreciative of the response from Dr. Tam and Dr. Mithani on behalf of Minister Philpott thanking us for delivering the Lyme Letters and for sharing the personal stories of Canadians affected by Lyme disease which have deepened their understanding of the challenges Lyme sufferers face each and every day.

Dr Mithani had also personally shared at the patient round table how much these personal stories of suffering, especially the letters written by mothers of sick children had impacted her personally, even keeping her awake at night – as they do us.  Indeed, one cannot read the personal pleas and accounts of devastation without being moved to take meaningful, measurable action.  Dr Tam and Dr Mithani have indicated the importance of the patient’s voice and experience informing and thus guiding the ongoing work of the Agency.  We look forward to continued collaboration with them on this important topic.

Minister Taylor, we also trust that the Lyme letters will be shared with you to read as the new Health Minister and we hope that you can respond to and acknowledge these powerful letters.  I recently highlighted one such letter from a mother on our LymeVoice page.  She had also spoken at the Federal Lyme conference last May and her moving speech brought us to tears.  Please take the time, if but a few moments to read her letter and watch her speech. <http://www.lymehope.ca/lymevoice/hope-is-hard-to-come-by-and-life-is-near-impossible-without-it>

We would like to share this exciting news about our **upcoming LymeHope event on November 3rd in Oakville, Ontario from 7-9:30pm – “Lyme Disease in Canada”.**  This panel discussion has been designed for medical professionals and members of the public who are interested in hearing from front-line Canadian physicians experienced with tick-borne diseases, as well as two of Canada’s Lyme scientists.

If by chance you will be in the Toronto area on Nov 3rd, we would of course be honoured to have you, or members of your staff attend the event.  There is a lot of interest in this event and we are expecting a very good turnout.

The full list of speakers and topics can be found on the flyer attached as well as through our website.   Info and RSVP info can be found on our website including our downloadable flyer:

<http://www.lymehope.ca/events.html>

We also wanted to share the recent Macleans article which came out a couple days ago featuring LymeHope and our meeting with former health Minister Philpott and Dr. Tam.  This article highlights the role of patient advocacy which we believe is so important when it comes to Lyme disease.

[http://www.macleans.ca/society/health/how-the-new-impatient-patient-is-disrupting-medicine/](http://www.lymehope.ca/advocacy-updates/how-the-new-impatient-patient-is-disrupting-medicine)

**Given the Portfolio change, we would like to request an introductory meeting with you in Ottawa**, so that we may share with you our ongoing activities and continue this important dialogue on necessary actions to protect Canadians who are at risk of, and concerned about, Lyme & related diseases.   It is our Hope that we can be a trusted resource and partner to you, and be of service and support to you and your team.

We look forward to hearing back,

Warmly, and *with Hope,*

Sue Faber, RN, BScN & Jennifer Kravis, BA, LL.B

Co-Founders

LymeHope

[www.lymehope.ca](http://www.lymehope.ca/)