Dear Minister Philpott, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 2017

I have Lyme Disease and have been unable to receive adequate healthcare in Canada for this illness. This is shocking to me and I am hoping that you will address this problem in a way that helps people like me, and future generations of Canadians, receive the diagnosis, proper testing and treatment we need.

Lyme disease is a very complex, life altering illness and, along with co-infections, causes many different symptoms. Some are constant while others come and go and migrate to different parts of the body. Some symptoms are annoying, others bizarre, some are alarming to experience and many of the symptoms are life altering. Living with this every day has created challenges for me that have impacted every aspect of my life as well as those around me.

My doctors have not had the training they require to correctly diagnose and treat this disease, and I have been left seeking alternatives. This has created a financial burden for me and should not be happening. The diagnostic tests and treatment guidelines that are currently in place are outdated and inadequate. I am proof of that. Although there is currently no simple “one size fits all” cure for this infection, physicians should be encouraged and supported to clinically diagnose and treat this disease using their best clinical judgement.

Lyme disease seems to have slipped through the cracks here in Canada. I am puzzled by this disease, my doctors are puzzled, the entire medical system does not have a grasp on it and yet I have not been asked to participate in a single research study on Lyme Disease.

There are so many questions that need to be answered. It is frustrating to have a disease that is not supported by our healthcare system and this has to change. I am reaching out to you, Minister Philpott, to ask you to lead the way. As I continue to struggle with this disease, not knowing what my future holds, I need hope that change will happen now.

Thank you for listening and taking the necessary steps to address these issues.

Sincerely,

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\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (address/town and province)