

Good morning Mr. Muise,

I am reaching out to inquire as to whether the Municipality of the District of Argyle could proclaim May as Lyme Disease Awareness Month. With COVID-19 getting all the awareness these days, it is very important to continue keeping this issue at the forefront of residents minds so that proper precautions are undertaken and a quick diagnosis and treatment can be obtained.

Although May is generally Lyme Disease Awareness Month around the world, ticks can be active anytime temperatures are above freezing. In Nova Scotia, this means that ticks can be active 12 months of the year as we usually have at least a couple of nice days each month. There can also be areas of micro-climates where it is warmer and they can be active on even colder days in these areas. In this regard, it would also be helpful if a year-round awareness initiative were undertaken by the Municipality so that your constituents are taking the proper precautions and obtaining an early diagnosis and treatment if bitten.

For your information, the number of Confirmed/Probable cases of Lyme disease reported in 2019 in Nova Scotia was 830, which is a significant increase from 2018, which was 454 - <https://novascotia.ca/dhw/populationhealth/documents/Annual-Notifiable-Disease-Surveillance-Report-2019.pdf>. I have not yet seen the case numbers for 2020. As you are aware, these numbers are much lower than the "true" numbers of yearly cases as many go unreported. Unfortunately, we do not presently know how many go unreported. Two different research documents in Canada suggest quite different amounts, but it has been confirmed that many are being missed.

Unfortunately, I am still being frequently contacted by people with new cases of Lyme and Tick-borne diseases in the province and, for the most part, they are still having considerable issues due to Doctors that are not overly knowledgeable. We need to raise the awareness level to help reduce case numbers and ensure that health care providers are knowledgeable about the three stages of Lyme, as well as the different clinical presentations. Additional information as to other potential Tick-borne diseases is also very important to provide to residents. Some additional information in this regard can be found here - <https://novascotia.ca/dhw/cdpc/documents/Tick-Borne-Disease-Response-Plan.pdf>

In the hope that you may agree to consider my request, I have attached a draft Resolution for your consideration.

Please let me know if you would like for me to provide any additional information/clarification. As well, I am open to providing presentations or an opportunity for a Q&A via Zoom if that is of interest.

Thank you.

Donna Lugar

NS Lyme Support Group

41 Brentwood Drive, Bedford, NS B4A 3S2

902-835-5643

PROCLAMATION

LYME DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH May 2021

WHEREAS Lyme disease is a serious illness caused by the bite of a black-legged tick infected with the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi*; and

WHEREAS black-legged ticks carrying a variety of diseases or illnesses can now be found in all parts of Nova Scotia; and

WHEREAS awareness, education and practicing preventative measures, such as daily tick checks and proper tick removal, can help reduce your chances of contracting tick borne diseases;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that I, Warden Danny Muise, on behalf of the Municipality of the District of Argyle, do hereby proclaim May 2021 as “Lyme Disease Awareness Month”.

Dated at Nova Scotia
this day of May, 2021

Warden Danny Muise