

Tilson supports Lyme disease legislation

Dufferin-Caledon MP David Tilson recently spoke out in the House of Commons in support of a private member's bill respecting a National Lyme Disease Strategy, which received its first hour of debate at Second Reading.

"I am pleased to be lending my support to this important bill, which will help to combat Lyme disease in Canada," Tilson said.

"Over the past number of years, I have been approached by a number of constituents suffering from Lyme disease, so I am encouraged that the government also supports this legislation."

Dufferin-Caledon residents signed a number of petitions in 2012 and 2013, calling on the government to step up its efforts to combat Lyme Disease, which Tilson presented to the House last spring.

"The number of reported cases of Lyme disease in Canada has increased nine-fold from 2003 to 2012, to over 300 cases annually," Tilson observed. "One of our problems is that the actual number of cases of Lyme disease in Canada is estimated to be three times higher than those cases which are actually reported. Even more troubling, based on current trends, the Public Health Agency of Canada estimates that these numbers will continue to rise."

It is expected that the bill will come to a vote at Second Reading in mid-April and if successful, will be referred to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Health for further study.