



Association of Medical Microbiology  
and Infectious Disease Canada

On February 7, the Public Health Agency of Canada released its Federal Framework on Lyme disease<sup>1</sup>. In response to the Framework, the AMMI Canada Council has approved and released the following position statement.

***“AMMI Canada recognizes that Lyme disease is an emerging infection in many regions across Canada that infects Canadians every year. AMMI Canada has been an active participant in the meetings leading to the development of this framework, and endorses the goal of enhancing surveillance, education and awareness of Lyme disease, and its prevention, diagnosis and treatment in Canada. However, we are concerned that some statements within the framework document do not reflect the views of our membership. Specifically, while the diagnosis of early localized infection is predominately clinical, the framework, as written, suggests that all diagnosis is clinical; this underestimates the value of laboratory testing for disseminated and late Lyme disease. Lyme serology performs well for these later stages of infection, as it does for most other later stage infections.*”**

***The majority of participants at the May 2016 conference were members of the public who provided personal experiences of living with ongoing symptoms attributed to Lyme disease based on alternative serologic criteria, clinical criteria alone, or following treatment for confirmed Lyme disease. While AMMI Canada recognizes and values the importance of the patient’s perspective in the clinical encounter, anecdotal experiences do not constitute evidence-based science. AMMI Canada is actively involved with the Infectious Disease Society of America (IDSA) and other specialty societies in developing guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of patients with Lyme disease and will continue to provide an evidence-based approach to help patients and physicians through education, research and advocacy.”***

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/programs/consultation-draft-federal-framework-lyme-disease.html>