

Sent via Email December 20, 2018

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau, Honorable Minister Ginette Petitpas-Taylor, Honorable Minister Jody Wilson-Rebould, Dr. Mithani, Dr. Tam, Honorable Andrew Scheer, Elizabeth May and Jagmeet Singh,

Please see link below regarding an article released last night making serious and disturbing allegations that the Public Health Agency of Canada requested that the World Health Organization (WHO) remove "Congenital Lyme borreliosis" from the new ICD-11 codes, in a stunning breach of the WHO's process.

https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/breaking-news-public-health-agency-canada-secretly-act-luche-thayer?trk=portfolio_article-card_title

Despite the process for changes to the proposed new ICD-11 codes being closed as of June 2018, on December 17, 2018, out of 50,000+ ICD codes, it appears only one was removed: "Congenital Lyme Borreliosis".

See screenshot of the WHO ICD platform notes:

17-Dec-18 (13:12)	Team3 WHO	Lyme borreliosis	Attached to the entity	Medical and Scientific Advisory Committee meeting September 6, 2018 Congenital Lyme borreliosis was discussed at this meeting. It was noted that there is no concrete evidence in the literature that congenital Lyme borreliosis exists. MSAC members recommended that the concept of congenital Lyme borreliosis be removed from the ICD-11. Classification and Statistics Advisory Committee October 25, 2018 The Medical Scientific Advisory Committee's recommendation to remove the code for congenital Lyme disease was accepted. It was agreed that, even accepting the possibility of placental transmission of Lyme disease, there is no conclusive evidence that such transmission results in abnormal fetal outcome.	-2
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The link to access these notes here: <https://icd.who.int/dev11/l-m/en>

Anyone can register to access the contributions.

We are respectfully requesting the following urgent actions:

1. LymeHope requests an urgent meeting with Dr. Tam and Dr. Mithani,
2. A joint request from the Prime Minister's office, the office of the Honourable Health Minister Ginette Petitpas-Taylor and Public Health Agency of Canada to the WHO insisting that the WHO maintain the integrity of their own process by:
 - a. disclosing all the details of this change and
 - b. immediately reinstating the Congenital Lyme Borreliosis code so the process may continue uninterrupted and without interference.

The open WHO ICD platform states this request was discussed at a September 6, 2018 meeting and agreed to on October 25, 2018 in a meeting held in Seoul Korea – the latter being a meeting at which a representative of Canada was present (according to the WHO agenda material for the upcoming WHO Executive Board meeting in January 2019).

The update of the ICD-11 codes has been a multi-year process in which all 193 member states were able to participate in an open and transparent platform and all the new codes went through a validation process that included a public review by WHO expert committees and advisors. The ICD-11 platform period for final review and comments was closed and declared **stable in June 2018**.

If true, these allegations would implicate Canada in a global betrayal of fundamental human rights that will cause the suffering and death of babies around the world for generations to come.

We sincerely hope these allegations are baseless.

For almost 2 years we at LymeHope have been working together with PHAC in respectful and collaborative partnership to raise awareness of the scientific evidence of risk of transplacental transmission of Lyme borreliosis and the association with potentially fatal adverse outcomes, as outlined in your recent published paper: <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0207067>

We would ask you, as the leaders and protectors of Canadian public health, and on behalf of Canada as a member state, **to urgently insist the WHO protect the integrity of their own process and condemn this type of closed door end-run which undermines the legitimacy of the human rights Canada professes to support**. Furthermore, we expect you insist that the WHO immediately reinstate the Congenital Lyme Borreliosis ICD code so the process may continue uninterrupted and without interference.

Just weeks ago, on December 9, 2018, Human Rights Day – Prime Minister Trudeau stated: “Canada is unwavering in its commitment to protect and promote human rights. We will not stand idle while hundreds of thousands of people around the world suffer gross human rights violations, nor will we hesitate to condemn violations of human rights, regardless of where they take place.” <https://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2018/12/10/statement-prime-minister-human-rights-day>

Canadians, and global citizens, who look to Canada as a leader in human rights, expect nothing less.

Sincerely,

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