



## **LYME DISEASE SURVEILLANCE**

### **Six Nations of the Grand River Territory**

A West Nile Virus (WNV) and Lyme disease information night was held on April 17, 2019 at the Six Nations Community Hall. Guest speakers included Dr. Robbin Lindsay and Ms. Annie-Claude Bourgeois from the Public Health Agency of Canada, Dr. Tim Cook from the P3 Clinic in Toronto and Peter Hill, Environmental Public Health Officer from the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch, Indigenous Services Canada. Topics of discussion included the basic facts of West Nile Virus and Lyme disease, treatment and prevention of both diseases and a look at the endemic areas in Ontario. A community member from Six Nations, also provided a candid presentation on their personal story of dealing with a Lyme disease diagnosis. Community members at this information night strongly voiced their concern with the lack of an Active Tick Surveillance in the community, and requested the testing of all ticks, not just the black-legged ticks.

There is a WNV Surveillance program consisting of mosquito trapping and bird submissions that has been completed and is ongoing in the community. Also, there is a Passive Tick Surveillance program being conducted in the community.

Six Nations Health Services has received approval from the Six Nations Elected Council to grant the Active Tick Surveillance by collection of all ticks including dog ticks from Six Nations of the Grand River Territory for testing. The Active Tick Surveillance will be funded by the Indigenous Services Canada in the Spring and Fall of 2019. The collection of ticks will take place on 6 locations throughout the Six Nations of the Grand River Territory. Once they have made their collection the ticks will be sent to the National Microbiology Laboratory in Winnipeg, Manitoba, where they will be tested for Lyme Disease, Tularemia and Anaplasmosis.

The Indigenous Services Canada will provide a full report back to the community with the results of this testing. The report will contain the number and types of ticks collected, the agents presented in these ticks, and the recommendations for follow up if required.

If you have any questions please contact:

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