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November 17, 2008

To: Budget Committee

From: Board of Health

Subject: Toronto Bed Bug Project Update

Recommendations:

The Board of Health on November 17, 2008, amongst other things:

- 1. recommended to the Budget Committee that City Council approve a request for one time emergency funding of \$75,000 gross and net in the Toronto Public Health 2009 Operating Budget to assist vulnerable adults who do not qualify for Ontario Works (OW) and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) support, to purchase services to prepare their residences for bed bug pesticide treatment; and**
- 2. referred the report (November 12, 2008) from the Medical Officer of Health to the Budget Committee for consideration during the 2009 Operating Budget process.**

Decision Advice and Other Information:

The Board of Health:

1. recommended to the Budget Committee that City Council approve a request for one time emergency funding of \$75,000 gross and net in the Toronto Public Health 2009 Operating Budget to assist vulnerable adults who do not qualify for Ontario Works (OW) and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) support, to purchase services to prepare their residences for bed bug pesticide treatment;
2. requested the General Manager, Shelter Support and Housing Administration, to request funding for the expansion of the Bug and Scrub initiative, as part of the 2009 Operating Budget process;
3. referred this report to the Budget Committee for consideration during the 2009 operating budget process;

4. established a Bed Bug Advisory Group of three members of the Board of Health, Councillor Paula Fletcher, Councillor Janet Davis and Wangari Muriuki, to:
 - a. work with Toronto Public Health staff to identify and advise on critical issues identified in HL19.8 "Toronto Bed Bug Project Update" relating to bed bug control in the City of Toronto prior to the March 2009 report from the Toronto Bed Bug Project; and
 - b. report to the Board of Health on any further measures necessary in order to assist Torontonians living below the poverty line to prepare and treat a bed bug infestation in their home;
5. referred this report to the Greater Toronto Apartment Association, Municipal Licensing and Standards, the Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association and Toronto Community Housing for information; and
6. reiterated its request to the Government of Ontario to fund bed bug control initiatives for vulnerable populations as part of their poverty reduction strategy.

Background:

The Board of Health on November 17, 2008, considered the following:

- a. Report (November 12, 2008) from the Medical Officer of Health entitled "Toronto Bed Bug Project Update"; and
- b. Letter (September 23, 2008) from Councillor Howard Moscoe, Ward 15 – Eglinton-Lawrence.

Background Information

Toronto Bed Bug Project Update - Staff Report

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-17412.pdf>)

Letter from Councillor Moscoe, Ward 15 - Eglinton-Lawrence

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-17413.pdf>)

Communications:

(November 11, 2008) letter from Frances Zaretsky (HL.New.HL19.8.1)

Speakers:

Sandra Van Ruymbeke, Health Promotion Coordinator, LAMP Community Health Centre

Heather O'Neil, Board Member, Federation of Metro Tenants' Association

(November 17, 2008) Geordie Dent, Board Member, Federation of Metro Tenants' Association

Andrea Zaretsky

(November 17, 2008) Frances Zaretsky (Submission Filed)

Rima Zavys, Director, Mental Health and Development Services/Homelessness and Housing Help Unit, Wood Green Community Services
Grace Pluchino, Community Legal Worker, Downsview Community Legal Services
Lillian Carrigan, Roselawn Avenue Tenants' Association
Councillor Howard Moscoe, Ward 15 – Eglinton-Lawrence

Secretary,
Board of Health

C. Davidovits/jd
Item HL19.8

Attachment

c. Medical Officer of Health
Interested parties