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January 20, 2012

TO: Chair and Members
Toronto Board of Health

RE: HL 10.3 Bed Bug Strategy Update

Implementing effective bed bug strategies in large multi-unit buildings continues to be a challenge in Ward 31 and across the City. Over the past year, we have worked collaboratively with public health staff and tenants associations to try to educate tenants and landlords, and ensure that effective strategies are being undertaken in multi-unit buildings. While we have seen willingness and cooperation by some landlords, others continue to delay treatments, treat sporadically or inadequately, or fail to address the problem with a comprehensive, building-wide strategy.

I believe, in such cases, Toronto Public Health and the City of Toronto should take all necessary action and exercise its full authority to protect the health and well-being of residents in these buildings. In order to fully understand and implement a more aggressive enforcement strategy, I am requesting Toronto Board of Health consider the following motion:

The Medical Officer of Health, in consultation with the City Manager and City Solicitor, report to the February meeting on any changes required to regulation or by-laws, policy or procedures, to provide authority to Toronto Public Health or City of Toronto Municipal Licensing and Standards, to undertake or contract for necessary bed bug treatment and apply costs to the property taxes of landlords who fail to properly respond to bed-bug infestations within their buildings.

I am unable to be present at the Board of Health meeting today, and would appreciate your support. Thank you.

Janet Davis
Ward 31, Beaches-East York