



方卓怡 市議員 **Paula FLETCHER**  
Councillor Toronto-Danforth Ward 30

February 10, 2011

Councillor Del Grande  
Chair, Budget Committee

Dear Chair and Budget Committee Members:

**Re: Bed Bug Control\Adjustment to Budget Request from BOH for Bed Bugs**

For many years Toronto Public Health has been on the forefront of efforts to control bed bugs in the city of Toronto. Their leadership has been recognized across the city, throughout the province and elsewhere.

Due to the urgent and growing problem with bed bugs a number of staff from healthy environments was assigned to a special team to this important task. As the problem burgeons the City's Shelter and Housing Division has also come on board to assist TPH in developing responses to the bed bug issue.

Last year the Board of Health approved a staff report requesting \$2 million from the province to support the work of Toronto Public Health in bed bug control.

With no positive response and understanding that the department could no longer maintain the pace and intensity of their work without "dedicated" dollars the Board of Health took the unusual step of adding an additional budget request of \$2,000,000 gross and \$500,000 net with 75 percent cost-sharing of \$1,500,000 from the province to be dedicated to bed bug control.

However, in the meantime, the province has announced a special one time funding for Public Health units for initiatives related to bed bugs. As of today, TPH is set to receive \$1.5 million of the provincial funding. This is wonderful news. But there is still a shortfall of \$500,000 million which can be overcome with a \$125,000 commitment from this budget. With the three-to-one funding ratio from the province, this shortfall can be met. There is still a chance for additional provincial dollars should not all of the Health units in Ontario take up the bed bug funding.

In consideration of this I am asking the Budget Committee to

"reduce the \$2 million gross and \$500,000 net request by Toronto Public Health to \$500,000 gross and \$125,000 net with 75 percent cost-sharing of \$375,000 from the Province to be dedicated to bed bug control and to be used only if there is no further funding for bed bug control under the 2011 special allocation by the province to health units to tackle bed bugs."

Sincerely

Paula Fletcher  
Ward 30, Toronto Danforth

