

Ministry of Health
and Long-Term Care

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APR 12 2012

HLTC2976MC-2012-27

Dr. David McKeown
Medical Officer of Health
Toronto Public Health
277 Victoria Street
5th Floor
Toronto ON M5B 1W2

Dear Dr. McKeown: *David*

Thank you for your letter of January 19, 2012, requesting a provincial commitment to provide Toronto Public Health (TPH) with on-going base funding for bed bug control after March 31, 2012.

The Government of Ontario is committed to supporting Ontarians in preventing and controlling bed bug infestations. We have demonstrated this commitment by investing in local solutions and providing accurate information to the public and stakeholders. As part of our commitment, the government announced up to \$5 million in one-time funding for Ontario's public health units, of which TPH received \$1.2 million. In addition, TPH received on-going base funding for three new full-time public health nurse positions to support bed bug control activities. I recognize that the resurgence of bed bug infestations in Toronto is an important issue. While the ministry cannot commit to providing additional funding at this time, we will review the results of the Initial Surveillance and Evaluation Reports submitted by health units, which will help to inform potential options for moving forward on this very important issue.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the TPH Bed Bug Team for the tremendous work that has been done to date to support Torontonians combating bed bug infestations.

Sincerely,

Deb Matthews

Deb Matthews
Minister

c: Brenda Patterson, Deputy City Manager, City of Toronto
Dr. Arlene King, Chief Medical Officer of Health
Councillor John Filion, Chair, Board of Health