

March 29, 2012

Councillor Cesar Palacio
Chair, Licensing and Standards Committee

Dear Chair and Members,

RE: Provincial Support for Municipal Bed Bug Teams

Funding from the Province of Ontario to municipalities across Ontario is at risk of being lost in the current provincial budget process. This funding is set to expire on March 31, 2012, and should the funding be permitted to lapse the health and wellbeing of residents across Toronto will be compromised.

The City of Toronto Bed Bug team has used this funding to complete over 4,130 inspections of residences across the City. The team's work is invaluable in identifying bed bug infestations, particularly in the homes of vulnerable adults who are unable to address the infestations themselves. Without the contributions of the City bed bug team, infestations would go unchecked in apartment buildings throughout Toronto, and to end this funding would undo all the progress that has been made.

Bed bugs represent a health and safety crisis and cannot be eradicated without the proper supports in place. I also include a photo demonstrating the devastating effects of bed bugs left untreated, spreading from an individual's unit to the common areas and putting all residents at risk.

I would strongly urge the Committee to move the following motion:

Request the Province of Ontario continue \$5 million in funding for municipal programs combating bed bug infestations.

Sincerely,

Councillor Paula Fletcher
Ward 30 – Toronto-Danforth