



## STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

### Toronto Bed Bug Strategy: Update on Provincial Funding

<b>Date:</b>	July 10, 2012
<b>To:</b>	City Council
<b>From:</b>	City Manager and Medical Officer of Health
<b>Wards:</b>	All Wards
<b>Reference Number:</b>	

#### **SUMMARY**

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At its meeting on June 6, 7 and 8, 2012, City Council voted unanimously to approve \$250,000 in one-time municipal funding to ensure the temporary continuation of the Toronto Bed Bug initiative and directed staff to pursue negotiations with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to secure supplementary provincial funds and a comprehensive long-term funding solution.

Pursuant to ongoing efforts by the Board of Health (BOH), the City Manager and City Council, on June 27, 2012, the Chair of the Board of Health and the Medical Officer of Health met with the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care to discuss provincial funding for the Toronto Bed Bug initiative.

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has recently provided an indication to Toronto Public Health of its willingness to now consider full ongoing 75% provincial funding for the bed bug program on the basis of the fact that a) the program is focused on vulnerable individuals and b) that the 2012 Toronto Public Health budget submission to the Ministry is below the anticipated maximum allowable provincial increase, and that a 25% municipal component can be identified. The recommendations in this report will meet the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care cost-shared funding requirements under the Health Protection and Promotion Act and the Ontario Public Health Standards. The mechanism for final approval of this funding would be through a formal resubmission of the Toronto Public Health base budget to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

This ongoing base funding of \$1.0 million gross and \$0.250 million net would sustain the current Toronto Public Health (TPH) program, and allow for some support to city partners as part of a comprehensive approach to bed bug control.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

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### **The City Manager and Medical Officer of Health recommend that:**

1. City Council approve an ongoing Bed Bug program in Toronto Public Health at a cost of \$1.0 million gross and \$0.250 million net, subject to confirmation of ongoing provincial funding from the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care;
2. City Council approve a base budget adjustment of \$1.0 million gross and \$0.250 million net to the Toronto Public Health 2012 Approved Operating Budget and 8 permanent positions with revenue of \$0.750 million in new base funding from the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and \$0.250 million to be funded from the Tax Stabilization Reserve Fund; and
3. City Council request the City Manager and the Medical Officer of Health report on a coordinated multi-program plan for bed bug control to the Board of Health and the Community Development and Recreation Committee in the fall of 2012.

### **Financial Impact**

The Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has now indicated to Toronto Public Health that they are prepared to consider full cost-sharing of the bed bug program as part of the formal cost sharing agreement under the Health Protection and Promotion Act and the Ontario Public Health Standards.

The Ministry has indicated that this consideration is being given based on the fact that the program is focussed on vulnerable individuals and that the current Toronto Public Health budget submission to the Ministry is below the maximum allowable provincial increase.

The Ministry will if approved add \$0.750 million in base on-going revenue for total cost-shared funding of \$1.0 million gross and \$0.250 million net in new base funding contingent upon the City providing its 25% share of on-going base funding. In 2012, \$0.250 million in net base funding is provided by way of the Tax Stabilization Reserve Fund. For 2013, base funding of \$0.250 million net is required and will be included in TPH's 2013 Operating Budget submission.

The eight permanent positions will continue the work of the dedicated multi-disciplinary team that was established in 2011 using one-time 100% provincial funding for the period of May 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

## **DECISION HISTORY**

There is a history of reports, decisions and recommendations made by the BOH and City Council regarding bed bug control activities dating back to 2008. The history details the extensive efforts made by the City to secure the funding needed to address bed bug infestations affecting the City's most vulnerable populations.

Between February 2012 and May 2012, City Council received three reports from the Medical Officer of Health (February 6; April 10; and May 8, 2012), and in February and April, 2012, City Council unanimously voted to request the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to provide a clear commitment to ongoing base funding for all components of the bed bug control strategy.

At its meeting on June 6, 7 and 8 2012, City Council received another TPH Staff report, and unanimously voted to authorize the expenditure of \$250,000 from the 2012 Toronto Public Health Operating Budget for the delivery of a bed bug control program. City Council also unanimously reaffirmed its position regarding provincial funding and requested the Government of Ontario to provide matching funding for 2012, and requested the province commit to significant funding for 2013 and beyond.

## **ISSUE BACKGROUND**

Toronto Public Health has been involved in supporting bed bug control activities since 2005. In response to an escalating demand and shared concern with this issue, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care in 2011 provided Toronto Public Health and through them, key city partners, with a one-time allocation of \$1,216,518.

This dedicated funding has supported a comprehensive and multi-level bed bug strategy in the City of Toronto. Through this funding a multidisciplinary team of a dedicated staff has worked in concert with city partners including Shelter, Support and Housing Administration (SSHA) and Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC), to offer a wide range of bed bug education, support and eradication activities primarily aimed at low income and vulnerable clients.

The services provided by the team currently include, education, bed bug identification, inspection, the direct delivery or coordination of extreme cleans for highly infested units of vulnerable clients unable to proceed with the eradication without assistance and providing a significant number of isolated and vulnerable clients with access to needed health and social support services.

Board of Health and City Council have advocated to the province on numerous occasions over the past year for continuation of the provincial one-time funding supporting this initiative, and most recently unanimously voted to allocate \$250,000 on a one-time basis from the TPH projected year-end under-spending to support the program in this fiscal year.

## **COMMENTS**

The current offer from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, if concluded, meets the objective set by City Council of securing ongoing provincial funding, and due to the current cost-sharing formula for Toronto Public Health programs and services, actually exceeds the direction provided at the June meeting of securing matching funds.

In order to secure the funds available from the Province of Ontario, the City is required to contribute its 25% share of the funding on an ongoing basis.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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Dr. David McKeown  
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