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Ontario

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REFERRAL TO _____
RECOMMENDED _____
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RECEIPT RECOMMENDED

Dear Head of Council:

Our government understands that bed-bug infestations are a growing concern in communities across the province.

The issue of beg bugs represents a significant challenge. Bed bugs cause a variety of negative physical health, mental health and economic consequences. In particular, the impact on our vulnerable and marginalised groups is concerning.

As you may know, the Province already has various measures in place to help combat concerns such as bed bugs. Under the *Residential Tenancies Act, 2006* (RTA) landlords are required to keep their buildings and rental units in a good state of repair while ensuring that all health, safety and maintenance standards are met.

In addition, the *Building Code Act* (BCA) gives municipalities the authority to adopt by-laws that prescribe standards for the maintenance and occupancy of property. The BCA further authorizes municipalities to order a property owner to comply with the standards prescribed in its by-law for property standards.

Further, the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* (HPPA) establishes broad authority for public-health units to prevent, eliminate and decrease the effects of health hazards within their jurisdictions.

However, we recognize that there is more work to be done. The public expects a strong and coordinated response to this issue. We would like to request your support in order to ensure appropriate measures exist at the local level to tackle the apparent increase in bed bug infestations. We encourage you to focus on prevention and education in order to reduce the number of people affected.

Our government is committed to working with you to find available solutions. Our current plan includes:

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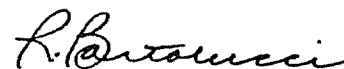
- Dr. Arlene King, the Chief Medical Officer of Health, conducting a province-wide assessment of the scope of the problem;
- working with our municipal partners in public health units and housing departments on the development of appropriate educational materials to raise public awareness; and
- working with our partners in the tourism and consumer services industries to minimize possible impact on these sectors.

We sincerely appreciate your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,



Deb Matthews
Minister of Health
and Long-Term Care



Rick Bartolucci
Minister of Municipal
Affairs and Housing