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When people bite back against bed bugs

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NO COMMENT

Budget set aside to fight infestation sparks debate.

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The Canadian Medical Association published one confirmed case of anemia in Toronto, brought on by the explosion of a bed bug population in Canada over the past few years.

According to the City of Toronto's website, the Ontario government set aside five million dollars to help decrease infestations in the province. The funds will go to health organizations for research in entomology, the expansion of an educational website and the education of hotel workers, hospital staff and caregivers to the elderly. The future of the budget is debatable amongst experts in the field of extermination and public policy.

Cheri DiNovo, NDP party member and MPP of High Park, reveals how government institutions disagree on a new budget as an effective solution to bedbugs. DiNovo says although health associations need the money, the development of a website "isn't going to help anybody...the problem is enforcement of the skills generated by education and research."

DiNovo says the amount of landlords that rent rooms without properly checking for bed bugs is an ongoing problem for students. To DiNovo, the lack of policy changes for landlord responsibilities is a sign that the government "takes little action".

Michael Goldman, a Toronto based exterminator, was the first in the world to train dogs to sniff out bedbugs. Goldman was hired to inspect and fumigate Guelph-Humber residences with his team of dogs and has a different take on the government's attempt to address a nationwide infestation.

"The budget will help to train staff in hospitals and hotels. In my opinion Toronto is far above anywhere else [in the country] in fixing the problem" Goldman said.

The budget came in effect as of mid January. Ontario's 36 public health units, a number of which are located in the GTA can apply for the funds.

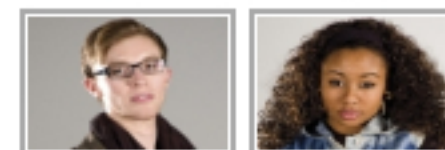


Courtesy of Michael Goldman

Video



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