

Ministry of Health
and Long-Term Care

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Ministère de la Santé
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APR 02 2012

Dr. Graham L. Pollett
Secretary-Treasurer
Middlesex-London Board of Health
50 King Street
London ON N6A 5L7

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APR 02 2012

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Dear Dr. Pollett: *Graham*

Thank you for your letter of February 2, 2012 requesting that the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care include bed bug funding in the base budgets of Ontario's health units.

The Government of Ontario is committed to supporting Ontarians in preventing and controlling bed bug infestations, and has demonstrated this commitment by investing in local solutions and providing accurate information to the public and stakeholders. As part of this commitment, the government announced up to \$5 million in one-time funding for Ontario's public health units, of which Middlesex-London received \$180,000. While I recognize that the resurgence of bed bug infestations in Ontario is an important issue, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care cannot commit to providing additional funding at this time. However, we are reviewing the results of the Initial Surveillance and Evaluation Reports submitted by health units, which we hope will inform potential options for how best to move forward.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the staff at the Middlesex-London Health Unit for the tremendous work that has been done to date to support the control of bed bug infestations in your health unit area.

Sincerely,

Deb Matthews

Deb Matthews
Minister

- c: The Honourable Chris Bentley, Minister of Energy, MPP London West
Ms. Teresa J. Armstrong, MPP London-Fanshawe
Mr. Monte McNaughton, MPP London-Kent-Middlesex
Mr. Jeff Yurek, MPP Elgin-Middlesex-London
Mr. Wally Adams, Director, Environmental Health and Chronic Disease
Dr. Arlene King, Chief Medical Officer of Health