

Manitoba News Release

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PROVINCE LAUNCHES NEW WEAPONS IN BEDBUG FIGHT

Non-profit Grants, Prevention Materials Next Phase of Strategy: Rondeau

Community-based, non-profit community organizations are eligible to receive financial assistance to help with bedbug education, treatment, management and prevention through the province's new Bed Bug Grant Program and specialized bedbug prevention materials will be made available at reduced cost to qualifying organizations through the Bed Bug Prevention Materials Program, Healthy Living, Youth and Seniors Minister Jim Rondeau announced today.

"These new programs are vital pieces of our bedbug-prevention strategy, providing supports to the people and organizations that need them most," said Rondeau. "This will help to prevent the spread of bedbugs and ensure that infestations are identified and treated as quickly and efficiently as possible."

The Bed Bug Prevention Materials Program will offer a wide variety of materials at attractive prices to qualifying organizations to help deal with bedbug infestations, said the minister. Materials will include bedbug-proof mattress and box-spring covers, insect monitors and record keepers, insect interceptor traps, dissolvable laundry bags, bedbug stickers and handouts, and clear-view bedbug monitors.

The program will be phased in to ensure supply meets demand, beginning with the Manitoba Camping Association and the Manitoba Professional Property Managers Association, the minister added.

"Each year, approximately 20,000 Manitoba children and youth attend an accredited Manitoba summer camp," said Bryan Ezako, executive director, Manitoba Camping Association. "We want to ensure that their camping experience is fun filled and unforgettable, and these low-cost bedbug-prevention resources are an important tool that will help to ensure that camp days are comfortable and worry free."

Under the \$200,000 Bed Bug Grant Program, which is the first of its kind in Canada, non-profit organizations will be eligible to recover from 50 to 100 per cent of costs related to bedbug treatment or prevention, to a maximum of \$2,000.

Rondeau noted that grants could go towards payment for an approved integrated pest-management plan or for preventative equipment such as an industrial dryer which, for example, could be used to heat-treat donated second-hand clothing that could be given to needy families and charitable organizations in the community.

Rondeau noted the new programs build on other bedbug strategies including the recent launch of the bedbug hotline, e-mail address and website, the formation of a bedbug coalition with representation from more than 20 Manitoba organizations, and a marketing and education campaign.

Grant application forms or for more information is available at the toll-free bedbug hotline at 1-855-3MB-BUGS (1-855-362-2847), www.manitoba.ca/bedbugs or by email at bedbugs@gov.mb.ca.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ATTACHED BELOW

Posted on WinnipegRentNet.ca



**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:
NON-PROFIT GRANTS AND PREVENTION MATERIALS PROGRAMS**

Q: What is the Bed Bug Grant Program?

A: The Bed Bug Grant Program is a \$200,000 initiative designed to provide assistance to community organizations on bedbug education, treatment, management and prevention.

Q: Who is eligible for the Bed Bug Grant Program?

A: Community-based, non-profit organizations are eligible to apply for financial assistance in the form of a grant. The Canada Revenue Agency definition for non-profit organizations will be used.

Q: How much assistance is available to organizations?

A: Qualified organizations will be eligible to recover 50 to 100 per cent of costs related to bedbug treatment and prevention to a maximum of \$2,000.

Q: How will qualified organizations be compensated for their costs?

A: Applicants will be required to submit receipts in order to be reimbursed. Receipt must be directly related to the cost of treatment or prevention. Only receipts dated after the grant application has been approved will be eligible for payment.

Q: What types of bedbug treatment and prevention activities are eligible for grant funding?

A: Activities and expenses may include, but are not restricted to:

- The costs associated with hiring a professional pest-control firm to treat bedbugs or inspect for them.
- Purchase of non-chemical controls and products used to prevent bedbugs such as mattress covers, storage containers, monitoring traps and double-sided sticky tape. Please note: Self-treatment, if applied incorrectly, can be costly and ineffective and can lead to a spread of bedbugs to unsuspecting neighbours. Professional extermination services are recommended.
- Purchase or rental of equipment utilized for bedbug prevention and control. Examples include industrial strength dryers, vacuums and spot steamers.

If there are questions about the eligibility of any treatment or prevention activities being planned, call the bedbug hotline.

Q: How can my organization apply for a grant?

A: For grant applications, call the bedbug hotline toll-free at 1-855-3MB-BUGS (1-855-362-2847). The hotline operator will provide all of the necessary information.

Q: What is the Bed Bug Prevention Materials Program?

A: The program offers a wide variety of specialized bedbug specific materials to qualifying organizations at attractive prices to combat bedbug infestations.

Q: What materials are available in the Bed Bug Prevention Materials Program?

A: Materials include bedbug-proof mattress and box-spring covers, insect monitors and record keepers, insect interceptor traps, dissolvable laundry bags, bedbug warning stickers, educational handouts and clear-view bedbug monitors.

Q: Who will have access to the Bed Bug Prevention Materials Program?

A: The program will be phased in to ensure supply meets demand. It will initially be available to the Manitoba Camping Association, the Manitoba Professional Property Managers Association and other qualifying organizations.

Q: How can I find out more information about bedbugs and the provincial strategy on bedbugs?

A: Call the toll-free bedbug hotline at 1-855-3MB-BUGS (1-855-362-2847), visit www.manitoba.ca/bedbugs or email bedbugs@gov.mb.ca. The hotline is staffed by trained operators from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.