November 19, 2013

Dear [Name],

Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act [Our File #: SNL-016-2013]

On October 16, 2013, Service NL received your request for access to the following records:

“All correspondence- in any and all formats, including paper and electronic generated pertaining to CBC News requests about bed bugs and/or Hamilton Ave., St. John’s; date range of request is Sept. 23-Oct. 8, 2013.”

I am pleased to inform you that your request for access to the records has been granted in part. Access to some information contained within the records has been refused in accordance with the following exceptions to disclosure, as specified in the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (the Act):

s. 20(1)(c).
Policy advice or recommendations

20. (1) The head of a public body may refuse to disclose to an applicant information that would reveal
(c) consultations or deliberations involving officers or employees of a public body, a minister or the staff of a minister.

s. 30(1).
Disclosure harmful to personal privacy

30(1) The head of a public body shall refuse to disclose personal information to an applicant where the disclosure would be an unreasonable invasion of a third party’s personal privacy.

As required by subsection 7(2) of the Act, we have severed information that is excepted from disclosure and have provided you with as much information as possible:

s.7(2)
Right of access

7. (2) The right of access to a record does not extend to information exempted from disclosure under this Act, but if it is reasonable to sever that information from the record, an applicant has a right of access to the remainder of the record.

In accordance with your request for a copy of the records, the appropriate copies have been enclosed.
Section 43 of the Act provides that you may ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review this partial refusal of access or you may appeal the refusal to the Supreme Court Trial Division. A request to the Information and Privacy Commissioner shall be made in writing within 60 days of the date of this letter or within a longer period that may be allowed by the Commissioner.

The address and contact information of the Information and Privacy Commissioner is as follows:

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner
34 Pippy Place
P. O. Box 13004, Stn. A
St. John's, NL A1B 3V8

Telephone: (709) 729-6309
Facsimile: (709) 729-6500

In the event that you choose to appeal to the Trial Division, you must do so within 30 days of the date of this letter. Section 60 of the Act sets out the process to be followed when filing such an appeal.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact the ATIPP Coordinator at 709-729-5510.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
DAVID NORMAN
Deputy Minister
Colman-Sadd, Vanessa

From: Williams, Sharon  
Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2013 3:24 PM  
To: Colman-Sadd, Vanessa  
Subject: RE: media inquiry

Please call me regarding this. Thanks

Sharon A. Williams, B.A.A.(EH), C.P.H.I.(C)  
Manager of Operations  
Environmental Health

Service NL  
Government Service Centre  
5 Mews Place  
P.O. Box 8700  
St. John’s, NL A1B 4J6

Phone: 709.729.0248  
Fax: 709.729.3980  
www.servicenl.gov.nl.ca

From: Colman-Sadd, Vanessa  
Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2013 3:21 PM  
To: Burke, Gerard; Williams, Sharon; Curran, Rick J.; King, Kevin R.  
Cc: Battcock, Terry; Kelland, Donna; McCarthy, Julian; Norman, David; McGrath, Nick; McGrath, Marietta  
Subject: RE: media inquiry

Do you want me to go back and ask [ ] where this is to see if we have had a complaint for this property?

From: Burke, Gerard  
Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2013 3:20 PM  
To: Colman-Sadd, Vanessa; Williams, Sharon; Curran, Rick J.  
Cc: Battcock, Terry; Kelland, Donna; McCarthy, Julian; Norman, David; McGrath, Nick; McGrath, Marietta  
Subject: RE: media inquiry

We would only get involved if we had a complaint from the landlord or tenant. We would not entertain a complaint from the adjoining homeowner.

Gerry Burke  
Director of Consumer Affairs  
Service NL  
Tel: (709) 729-2717  
Fax: (709) 729-6998

From: Colman-Sadd, Vanessa  
Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2013 3:13 PM  
To: Burke, Gerard; Williams, Sharon; Curran, Rick J.
Hi Gerry and Sharon,

Please see the below media request. It’s a little bit complicated but can you please advise if we have a role to play in this situation?

Thanks

Vanessa

From: [mailto: [redacted]@cbc.ca]
Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2013 3:07 PM
To: Colman-Sadd, Vanessa; Tompkins, John
Subject: media inquiry

Hello -

CBC News is working on a story about a bedbug infestation in a St. John's rowhouse that is privately owned and currently occupied by a [redacted].

The adjoining homeowner has been unsuccessful in convincing the owner/landlord to bring in pest control to address the bedbug problem. That means the problem has spread, and can't be fixed. (Every time the adjoining homeowner sprays, the bed bugs return through the other attached home.)

My question is whether the province has a role/requirement to ensure that tenants are living in pest-free accommodations, and whether the province can require landlords in such situations to take action - either in a case like this one, or a case where [redacted] is not involved.

I understand the province does not generally speak to specific situations, but I am hoping you can speak in general terms. I have copied both Service NL and AES, because I'm not 100 per cent sure where the ultimate responsibility falls.

And if you do wish to know the exact address, I can provide that.

Thanks in advance for any help you can provide.

Sincerely,
Colman-Sadd, Vanessa

From: Burke, Gerard  
Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2013 3:27 PM  
To: Colman-Sadd, Vanessa; Williams, Sharon; Curran, Rick J.; King, Kevin R.  
Cc: Battcock, Terry; Kelland, Donna; McCarthy, Julian; Norman, David; McGrath, Nick; McGrath, Marietta  
Subject: RE: media inquiry

I wouldn’t go looking for a complaint. The homeowner in this situation was speaking with Kevin a couple of weeks ago. He advised him to make a complaint to the City as they have minimum property standards for homeowners and based on an inspection they may be able to order the homeowner to take care of the problem. We haven’t heard anything since.

Gerry Burke  
Director of Consumer Affairs  
Service NL  
Tel: (709) 729-2717  
Fax: (709) 729-6998

From: Colman-Sadd, Vanessa  
Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2013 3:21 PM  
To: Burke, Gerard; Williams, Sharon; Curran, Rick J.; King, Kevin R.  
Cc: Battcock, Terry; Kelland, Donna; McCarthy, Julian; Norman, David; McGrath, Nick; McGrath, Marietta  
Subject: RE: media inquiry

Do you want me to go back and ask [Masked] where this is to see if we have had a complaint for this property?

From: Burke, Gerard  
Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2013 3:20 PM  
To: Colman-Sadd, Vanessa; Williams, Sharon; Curran, Rick J.  
Cc: Battcock, Terry; Kelland, Donna; McCarthy, Julian; Norman, David; McGrath, Nick; McGrath, Marietta  
Subject: RE: media inquiry

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Director of Consumer Affairs  
Service NL  
Tel: (709) 729-2717  
Fax: (709) 729-6998

From: Colman-Sadd, Vanessa  
Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2013 3:13 PM  
To: Burke, Gerard; Williams, Sharon; Curran, Rick J.  
Cc: Battcock, Terry; Kelland, Donna; McCarthy, Julian; Norman, David; McGrath, Nick; McGrath, Marietta  
Subject: FW: media inquiry

Hi Gerry and Sharon,  
Please see the below media request. It’s a little bit complicated but can you please advise if we have a role to play in this situation?

Thanks  
Vanessa
Hello -

CBC News is working on a story about a bedbug infestation in a St. John's rowhouse that is privately owned and currently occupied by a

The adjoining homeowner has been unsuccessful in convincing the owner/landlord to bring in pest control to address the bedbug problem. That means the problem has spread, and can't be fixed. (Every time the adjoining homeowner sprays, the bed bugs return through the other attached home.)

My question is whether the province has a role/requirement to ensure that tenants are living in pest-free accommodations, and whether the province can require landlords in such situations to take action - either in a case like this one, or a case where is not involved.

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And if you do wish to know the exact address, I can provide that.

Thanks in advance for any help you can provide.

Sincerely,

CBC NL I-unit

w

c

e@cbc.ca
Hello -

CBC News is working on a story about a bedbug infestation in a St. John's rowhouse that is privately owned and currently occupied by a [mailto:xxxx@cbc.ca].

The adjoining homeowner has been unsuccessful in convincing the owner/landlord to bring in pest control to address the bedbug problem. That means the problem has spread, and can’t be fixed. (Every time the adjoining homeowner sprays, the bed bugs return through the other attached home.)
My question is whether the province has a role/requirement to ensure that tenants are living in pest-free accommodations, and whether the province can require landlords in such situations to take action - either in a case like this one, or a case where is not involved.

I understand the province does not generally speak to specific situations, but I am hoping you can speak in general terms. I have copied both Service NL and AES, because I'm not 100 per cent sure where the ultimate responsibility falls.

And if you do wish to know the exact address, I can provide that.

Thanks in advance for any help you can provide.

Sincerely,

[Redacted]

--

[Redacted]

CBC NL 1-unit

[Redacted]

@cbc.ca
Colman-Sadd, Vanessa

From: Williams, Sharon
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2013 11:25 AM
To: Colman-Sadd, Vanessa; Kelland, Donna; Battcock, Terry; Norman, David; McGrath, Nick; McGrath, Marietta
Cc: Curran, Rick J.
Subject: RE: Bed Bugs

A Registered letter with signature required was mailed on Sept/24/13. I checked online with Canada Post this morning and an attempted delivery occurred on Sept/25/13 with a card left in the door to pick up the letter at the Post Office. It has not been picked up yet.

Several phone messages were previously left for the owner of the property and he had not returned the calls to the EHO and therefore a registered letter was sent.

Sharon A. Williams, B.A.A.(EH), C.P.H.I.(C)
Manager of Operations
Environmental Health

Service NL
Government Service Centre
5 Mews Place
P.O. Box 8700
St. John’s, NL A1B 4J6

Phone: 709.729.0248
Fax: 709.729.3980

www.servicenl.gov.nl.ca

From: Colman-Sadd, Vanessa
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2013 10:44 AM
To: Kelland, Donna; Battcock, Terry; Williams, Sharon; Norman, David; McGrath, Nick; McGrath, Marietta
Subject: FW: Bed Bugs

Please see below.

From: [mailto: [Mailto: ________________@cbc.ca]]
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2013 10:41 AM
To: Colman-Sadd, Vanessa
Subject: Bed Bugs

Hi Vanessa,

The city has informed us that a letter was sent to the owner of Hamilton Avenue from Service NL about eradicating bedbugs.
Wondering if you can comment on that?

Sincerely,

CBC NEWS

"As the recent complaints only dealt with bed bugs the matter was referred to the provincial Department of Health division of Service NL for their investigation. We were made aware that Service NL delivered a letter to the property owner at Hamilton Avenue in September 2013 about eradicating the bed bugs.

The provincial Department of Health identifies bed bugs as not being a health hazard as they do not harbor or transmit pathogens that cause disease. As such the City does not have authority to issue directives to exterminate for bed bugs."
Colman-Sadd, Vanessa

From: Williams, Sharon
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2013 1:10 PM
To: Colman-Sadd, Vanessa; Battcock, Terry
Subject: RE: Bed Bugs

According to Canada Post, it was the 25th of September and as of this morning has not been picked up.

How long do we wait? I will check again tomorrow morning.

Sharon A. Williams, B.A.A.(EH), C.P.H.I.(C)
Manager of Operations
Environmental Health

Service NL
Government Service Centre
5 Mews Place
P.O. Box 8700
St. John’s, NL A1B 4J6

Phone: 709.729.0248
Fax: 709.729.3980

www.servicenl.gov.nl.ca

From: Colman-Sadd, Vanessa
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2013 1:06 PM
To: Williams, Sharon; Battcock, Terry
Subject: RE: Bed Bugs

Thanks. It definitely has not yet been received? We can’t release it if the owner hasn’t picked it up yet.

From: Williams, Sharon
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2013 1:05 PM
To: Colman-Sadd, Vanessa; Battcock, Terry
Subject: RE: Bed Bugs

Please see attached.

Sharon A. Williams, B.A.A.(EH), C.P.H.I.(C)
Manager of Operations
Environmental Health

Service NL
Government Service Centre
5 Mews Place
P.O. Box 8700
Hi Vanessa,

Would I be able to have a copy of that letter? (Name redacted is fine.)

Also, why can government only "suggest" that he exterminate the bed bugs. Why can't government force him?

---

On Mon, Sep 30, 2013 at 12:38 PM, Colman-Sadd, Vanessa <vanessacolmansadd@gov.nl.ca> wrote:

Hi 

Environmental Health with Service NL has sent a registered letter to the owner of the property after receiving a complaint. This letter provides information about bed bugs and suggests that the owner contact a pest control company to exterminate them.

Vanessa

Vanessa Colman-Sadd
Hi Vanessa,

The city has informed us that a letter was sent to the owner of Hamilton Avenue from Service NL about eradicating bedbugs.

Wondering if you can comment on that?

Sincerely,

CBC NEWS

"As the recent complaints only dealt with bed bugs the matter was referred to the provincial Department of Health division of Service NL for their investigation. We were made aware that Service NL delivered a letter to the property owner at Hamilton Avenue in September 2013 about eradicating the bed bugs."
The provincial Department of Health identifies bed bugs as not being a health hazard as they do not harbor or transmit pathogens that cause disease. As such the City does not have authority to issue directives to exterminate for bed bugs."

"This email and any attached files are intended for the sole use of the primary and copied addressee(s) and may contain privileged and/or confidential information. Any distribution, use or copying by any means of this information is strictly prohibited. If you received this email in error, please delete it immediately and notify the sender."
September 23, 2013

Dear [Recipient Name],

It has come to the attention of Service NL that your apartment unit situated at [Address] Hamilton Avenue, St. John's, NL is infested with bed bugs. Please find the enclosed pamphlet, titled: Bed Bug Information for Landlords and property Managers, for your review.

As you may be aware, bed bugs are wingless, oval, flat reddish brown insects that are about the size of a small apple seed. Bed bugs are not considered a traditional public health hazard because they do not harbor and transmit pathogens that cause disease in humans. It is, however, recognized that bed bug infestations may have a negative impact on the wellbeing of people living in infested housing.

Due to the easy spreadibility of these insects, prompt attention to erradictaion is essential in order to limit the possible spread to adjoining properties. It is recommended that immediate action be taken to contact a licensed pest control operator to visit the above-noted property and exterminate the bed bugs.

If you have any further questions, then please do not hesitate to contact me. Further information regarding bed bugs can be found on the following website: http://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/publichealth/envhealth/insectinfestation.html.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Blake, CPHI(C)
Environmental Health Officer

Cc: Randy Carew, City of St. John’s
Sharon Williams, Service NL
Chris Nolan, Eastern Health
Key Messages
Bedbugs
October 1, 2013

Residential Tenancies
- Residential Tenancies governs the relationship between a tenant and a landlord. As such, we can act on a complaint from either party but we cannot act on a complaint from a third party.

- If a landlord feels that an action of a tenant or a failure to act by a tenant makes a premises unfit for human habitation then Service NL can order an emergency eviction of the tenant without a hearing taking place. This would occur if the tenant did not comply with the landlords notice to vacate immediately.

- There is no waiting period required in this type of notice, provided the required evidence including any reports and pictures is provided.

- Likewise if a tenant complains, the same situation would occur and the landlord would have to incur the costs of clean up.

Environmental Health
- The Department of Health and Community Services advises that bedbugs are not considered a public health hazard because they do not harbour and transmit pathogens that cause disease in humans that might come into contact with them. As such, existing provincial legislation has not been used to order clean-ups of this type of an infestation.

- Bedbug infestations may have a negative impact on the wellbeing of people living in infested housing by causing anxiety and sleeplessness. In addition, localized infections may occur at the site of bites.

- Environmental Health Officers of Service NL do respond to complaints of bedbug infestations. If there is evidence of an infestation, they will contact the owner of the property to provide them with information about bedbugs and recommend immediate action be taken to contact a pest control company to exterminate the bedbugs.

- In this particular situation, we have made several attempts to contact the homeowner of the property, including by registered mail, without success.
Key Messages

Bedbugs

October 2, 2013

Advanced Education and Skills

Residential Tenancies

- Residential Tenancies governs the relationship between a tenant and a landlord. As such, we can act on a complaint from either party but we cannot act on a complaint from a third party.

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• Bedbug infestations may have a negative impact on the wellbeing of people living in infested housing by causing anxiety and sleeplessness. In addition, localized infections may occur at the site of bites.

• Environmental Health Officers of Service NL do respond to complaints of bedbug infestations. If there is evidence of an infestation, they will contact the owner of the property to provide them with information about bedbugs and recommend immediate action be taken to contact a pest control company to exterminate the bedbugs.

• In this particular situation, we have made several attempts to contact the homeowner of the property, including by registered mail, without success.
Hi Donna:

Please see the attached draft of a briefing note on the bed bug issue in row housing on Hamilton Avenue in St. John’s. Please make any changes or revisions you deem necessary. Once your edits are addressed it will be sent to Roxie Wheaton at AES.

Regards,

Darryl
Information Note

Department of Health and Community Services
Department of Service NL
Department of Advanced Education and Skills

Title:  Bed Bug Infestation

Issue:
• To provide information on a bed bug infestation complaint in row housing on Hamilton Avenue in St. John’s, NL.

Background and Current Status:
• The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador does not have health legislation, regulations or standards for housing, including matters related to insect infestations.
• Insect infestation complaints and inquiries from the public are provided to Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) with Service NL for consideration. Awareness information is provided, and complaints are investigated, to help people resolve their insect infestation problem.
• Bed bugs are small insects that are usually active at night when people are sleeping. Adult bed bugs are wingless insects with flat rusty-red-colored oval bodies. Adult bed bugs are about 1/4 inch long (about the size of an apple seed).
• Bed bugs are big enough to be easily seen, but often hide in cracks in furniture, floors, or walls. Bed bugs feed on human blood. They can live for over a year without feeding on a host.
• Bedbugs are not considered a public health hazard in the traditional sense because they do not harbour and transmit pathogens that cause disease in humans that might come into contact with them. Their bites can be itchy and irritating.
• Bedbug infestations may have a negative impact on the wellbeing of people living in infested housing by causing anxiety and sleeplessness. In addition, localized infections may occur at the site of bites.

The Department of Health and Community Services has posted bed bug information from Toronto Public Health online at:
http://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/publichealth/envhealth/insectinfestation.htm

• Upon the receipt of a call about a bedbug infestation at Hamilton Avenue, an EHO with Service NL initiated an investigation. The investigation identified the following:
  o A rental property at Hamilton Avenue had a bed bug infestation that was impacting an attached private home at Hamilton Avenue.
  o The homeowner at Hamilton Avenue initiated bed bug eradication using a licensed pest control operator.
  o The eradication was unsuccessful due to the source of the bed bugs, the infestation at Hamilton Avenue, not being dealt with.
  o The landlord of Hamilton Avenue, who is a was not available when the investigating EHO tried to contact him about the infestation.
• In an attempt to resolve the matter, the investigating EHO sent a registered letter (see attachment) to with advice on how to eradicate the infestation given the impacts the infestation will have on his tenant and the people in the attached private homes. Service NL has not received confirmation that has received the letter.
• The rental unit at Hamilton Avenue is occupied.
• Information to be added on by AES at the rental unit and their role.
• Section 5 of the Health and Community Services Act and the nuisance section of the Sanitation Regulations (see below) have been used in the past to deal with communicable disease risks associated with areas regulated under the Act or Regulations (where Environmental Health Officers have powers and or duties) such as private sewage disposal and public pools.

Entry into building or on land

5. Every health officer, inspector or other person designated by the minister or authorized by the chief medical health officer may enter into and go upon a building, structure or land in the exercise of a power or the performance of a duty under this Act or the regulations and may make those orders and give those directions with regard to the structural alteration of the building or structure, the elimination of existing or potential insanitary conditions, or with respect to another matter that he or she considers advisable in the interest of the public health.

"nuisance" means a thing or condition of things which is or may become injurious or dangerous to public health or which may hinder the prevention or suppression of disease;

Nuisance

3. A person shall not create, permit or maintain a nuisance.

• These sections have not been used for non-communicable disease issues like insect infestations. The sections could possibly be used for insect infestations where disease transmission from insect to humans was a concern (e.g., mosquito control to prevent West Nile Virus).
• Bedbugs are a housing issue (housing is one of the determinants of health) and a collaborative multi-agency/government approach may need to be considered to help prevent widespread infestations.

Prepared by: Darryl Johnson/

Approved by:

Approved by:

October 1, 2013
Folks: we have added our comments and those of AES are also incorporated into this note. I assume you will give a final review and [redacted] Colleen can you give me a quick call?

s. 20(1)(c)
Information Note

Department of Health and Community Services
Department of Service NL
Department of Advanced Education and Skills

Title: Bed Bug Infestation

Issue:
- To provide information on a bed bug infestation complaint in row housing on Hamilton Avenue in St. John’s, NL.

Background and Current Status:
- In late August, Service NL received a complaint from a homeowner at Hamilton Avenue about a bedbug infestation in their home which apparently originated from the neighbouring attached (rental) property at Hamilton Avenue.
- An Environmental Health Officer (EHO) undertook an investigation which revealed the following:
  - The homeowner at Hamilton Avenue had initiated bed bug eradication using a licensed pest control operator. However, the eradication was unsuccessful because the source of the bed bugs at Hamilton Avenue had not been dealt with.
  - SNL made several unsuccessful attempts to contact the landlord of Hamilton Avenue to advise him as to how to deal with the infestation.
  - In an attempt to resolve the matter, the EHO sent a registered letter (see attachment) to with advice on how to eradicate the infestation given the impacts the infestation will have on his tenant and the people in the attached private homes. Service NL has not received confirmation that has received the letter.

- The Province does not have health legislation, regulations or standards specific to housing, including matters related to insect or other pest infestations, if they do not represent a risk to public health (i.e. carry a communicable disease).
- Section 5 of the Health and Community Services Act and the nuisance section (s.3) of the Sanitation Regulations have been used in the past to deal with communicable disease risks associated with areas regulated under the Act or Regulations (where EHO have powers and/or duties) such as private sewage disposal and public pools.
- These sections have not been used for non-communicable disease issues like insect infestations. The sections could possibly be used for insect infestations where disease transmission from insect to humans was a concern (e.g., mosquito control to prevent West Nile Virus). This is not the case with bed bugs.
- Nevertheless, insect infestation complaints and inquiries from the public are referred to EHOs with Service NL, who perform field service functions under an MOU with the Department of Health and Community Services.
- EHOs will investigate these complaints and provide information on how people can go about resolving their insect infestation problem. This could include engaging pest control services from the private sector.
- The Department of Health and Community Services has also posted bed bug information sourced from Toronto Public Health on the NL government website at: http://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/publichealth/envhealth/insectinfestation.html
• Bedbugs are not considered a public health hazard in the traditional sense because they do not harbour and transmit pathogens that cause disease in humans that might come into contact with them. Their bites can be itchy and irritating. However, bedbug infestations may have a negative impact on the wellbeing of people living in infested housing by causing anxiety and sleeplessness. In addition, localized infections may occur at the site of bites.

s. 30(1)

• [Redacted] does provide for fumigation, however in most rental accommodations the Department would refer [Redacted] to their landlord. In instances where the landlord fails to respond the Department will consider. s.30(1)

s. 30(1)

• Since the news story [Redacted] has come to light which has confirmed there is second rental unit at the address [Redacted] who has consented to have a pest control company fumigate the apartment. However details have come to light that there is second rental unit at the address [Redacted] who has consented to have a pest control company fumigate the apartment. However details have come to light that

s. 30(1)

• The Residential Tenancies Act provides a process for dealing with landlord and tenant issues and would provide some protection for the tenant in this regard. However, it should be noted that the landlord may evict any tenant with 90 days notice.

s. 20(1)(c)

• It is also important to note that an initial contact with the City of St John’s indicates that [Redacted] Hamilton Avenue is a single family dwelling. AES has confirmed that there are at least two rental units. This information will be reported to the City who may wish to follow up with the property owner.

Prepared by: Darryl Johnson/Colleen Stockley (HCS)/ Donna Kelland (SNL)/ Roxie Wheaton (AES)
Approved by:
October 1, 2013
Information Note

Department of Health and Community Services
Department of Service NL
Department of Advanced Education and Skills

Title: Bed Bug Infestation

Issue:

- To provide information on a bed bug infestation complaint in row housing on Hamilton Avenue in St. John’s, NL.

Background and Current Status:

- In late August, Service NL received a complaint from a homeowner about a bedbug infestation in their home which apparently originated from the neighbouring attached (rental) property at Hamilton Avenue.

- An Environmental Health Officer (EHO) undertook an investigation which revealed the following:
  - The homeowner at Hamilton Avenue had initiated bed bug eradication using a licensed pest control operator. However, the eradication was unsuccessful because the source of the bed bugs at Hamilton Avenue had not been dealt with.
  - SNL made several unsuccessful attempts to contact the landlord of Hamilton Avenue to advise him as to how to deal with the infestation.
  - In an attempt to resolve the matter, the EHO sent a registered letter (see attachment) to the landlord with advice on how to eradicate the infestation given the impacts the infestation will have on his tenant and the people in the attached private homes. Service NL has not received confirmation that the landlord has received the letter.

- The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador does not have health legislation, regulations or standards specific to housing, including matters related to insect infestations, if they do not represent a risk to public health (i.e. carry a communicable disease). Note: sections on legislative authority to be confirmed subject to further review with Justice.

- Section 5 of the Health and Community Services Act and the nuisance section (s.3) of the Sanitation Regulations have been used in the past to deal with communicable disease risks associated with areas regulated under the Act or Regulations (where EHO have powers and/or duties) such as private sewage disposal and public pools.

- These sections have not been used for non-communicable disease issues like insect infestations. The sections could possibly be used for insect infestations where disease transmission from insect to humans was a concern (e.g., mosquito control to prevent West Nile Virus). This is not the case with bed bugs.

- Nevertheless, insect infestation complaints and inquiries from the public are referred to EHOs with Service NL, who perform field service functions under an MOU with the Department of Health and Community Services.

- EHOs will investigate these complaints and provide information on how people can go about resolving their insect infestation problem. This could include engaging pest control services from the private sector.

- The Department of Health and Community Services has also posted bed bug information sourced from Toronto Public Health on the NL government website at: http://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/publichealth/envhealth/insectinfestation.html

- Bedbugs are not considered a public health hazard in the traditional sense because they do not harbour and transmit pathogens that cause disease in humans that might come into contact with
them. Their bites can be itchy and irritating. However, bedbug infestations may have a negative impact on the wellbeing of people living in infested housing by causing anxiety and sleeplessness. In addition, localized infections may occur at the site of bites.

- Section 30.1(1) of the Tenancies Act does provide for fumigation, however in most rental accommodations the Department would refer the tenant to their landlord. In instances where the landlord fails to respond the Department will consider Section 30.1(1). Since the news story indicates that the landlord has consented to have a pest control company fumigate the apartment. However, details have come to light which has confirmed there is a second rental unit at the address. The Residential Tenancies Act provides a process for dealing with landlord and tenant issues and would provide some protection for the tenant in this regard. However, it should be noted that the landlord may evict any tenant with 90 days notice.

- The Residential Tenancies Act provides a process for dealing with landlord and tenant issues and would provide some protection for the tenant in this regard. However, it should be noted that the landlord may evict any tenant with 90 days notice.

- It is important to note that an initial contact with the City of St John’s indicates that Hamilton Avenue is a single family dwelling. AES has confirmed that there are at least two rental units. This information will be reported to the City who may wish to follow up with the property owner.

Prepared by: Darryl Johnson/Colleen Stockley (HCS)/ Donna Kelland (SNL)/ Roxie Wheaton (AES)

Approved by:

October 1, 2013
Information Note

Department of Health and Community Services
Department of Service NL
Department of Advanced Education and Skills

Title: Bed Bug Infestation

Issue:
- To provide information on a bed bug infestation complaint in row housing on Hamilton Avenue in St. John's, NL.

Background and Current Status:
- In late August, Service NL received a complaint from a homeowner at Hamilton Avenue about a bedbug infestation in their home which apparently originated from the neighbouring attached (rental) property at Hamilton Avenue.  
  - An Environmental Health Officer (EHO) undertook an investigation which revealed the following:
    - The homeowner at Hamilton Avenue had initiated bed bug eradication using a licensed pest control operator. However, the eradication was unsuccessful because the source of the bed bugs at Hamilton Avenue had not been dealt with.
    - The EHO made several unsuccessful attempts to contact the landlord of Hamilton Avenue to advise him as to how to deal with the infestation.
    - In an attempt to resolve the matter, the EHO sent a registered letter (see attachment) to the landlord with advice on how to eradicate the infestation given the impacts the infestation will have on his tenant and the people in the attached private homes. Service NL has not received confirmation that the tenant has received the letter.
- The Province does not have health legislation, regulations or standards specific to housing, including matters related to Insect or other pest infestations, if they do not represent a risk to public health (i.e. carry a communicable disease).
- Section 5 of the Health and Community Services Act and the nuisance section (s.3) of the Sanitation Regulations have been used in the past to deal with communicable disease risks associated with areas regulated under the Act or Regulations (where EHO have powers and/or duties) such as private sewage disposal and public pools.
- These sections have not been used for non-communicable disease issues like insect infestations. The sections could possibly be used for insect infestations where disease transmission from insect to humans was a concern (e.g., mosquito control to prevent West Nile Virus). This is not the case with bed bugs.
- Nevertheless, insect infestation complaints and inquiries from the public are referred to EHOs with Service NL, who perform field service functions under an MOU with the Department of Health and Community Services.
- EHOs will investigate these complaints and provide information on how people can go about resolving their insect infestation problem. This could include engaging pest control services from the private sector.
- The Department of Health and Community Services has also posted bed bug information sourced from Toronto Public Health on the NL government website at: http://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/publichealth/envhealth/insectinfestation.html
Bedbugs are not considered a public health hazard in the traditional sense because they do not harbour and transmit pathogens that cause disease in humans that might come into contact with them. Their bites can be itchy and irritating. However, bedbug infestations may have a negative impact on the wellbeing of people living in infested housing by causing anxiety and sleeplessness. In addition, localized infections may occur at the site of bites.

The Residential Tenancies Act provides a process for dealing with landlord and tenant issues and would provide some protection for the tenant in this regard. However, it should be noted that the landlord may evict any tenant with 90 days notice.

It is also important to note that an initial contact with the City of St John's indicates that Hamilton Avenue is a single family dwelling. AES has confirmed that there are at least two rental units. This information will be reported to the City who may wish to follow up with the property owner.

It is also noted that infestations of bed bugs are a generally a housing issue and may disproportionately occur in housing occupied by vulnerable groups (e.g., poor, elderly and people with mental health issues) but also can affect the wider community (e.g. apartment buildings; row houses; hotels; correctional facilities). Given the complexities related to these issues and the various responsibilities of different departments and agencies, as well as municipal authorities, HCS will facilitate a further review in consultation with key stakeholders on whether and what type of additional action may be needed in this regard.

Prepared by: Darryl Johnson/Colleen Stockley (HCS)/ Donna Kelland (SNL)/ Roxie Wheaton (AES)
Approved by;
October 3, 2013
Information Note

Department of Health and Community Services
Department of Service NL
Department of Advanced Education and Skills

Title: Bed Bug Infestation

Issue:
• To provide information on a bed bug infestation complaint in row housing on Hamilton Avenue in St. John's, NL.

Background and Current Status:
• In late August, Service NL received a complaint from a homeowner at Hamilton Avenue about a bedbug infestation in their home which apparently originated from the neighbouring attached (rental) property at Hamilton.
• An Environmental Health Officer (EHO) undertook an investigation which revealed the following:
  o The homeowner at Hamilton Avenue had initiated bed bug eradication using a licensed pest control operator. However, the eradication was unsuccessful because the source of the bed bugs at Hamilton Avenue had not been dealt with.
  o SNL made several unsuccessful attempts to contact the landlord of Hamilton Avenue to advise him as to how to deal with the infestation.
  o In an attempt to resolve the matter, the EHO sent a registered letter (see attachment) to the landlord with advice on how to eradicate the infestation given the impacts the infestation will have on his tenant and the people in the attached private homes. Service NL has not received confirmation that the landlord has received the letter.
• The Province does not have health legislation, regulations or standards specific to housing, including matters related to insect or other pest infestations, if they do not represent a risk to public health (i.e. carry a communicable disease).
• Section 5 of the Health and Community Services Act and the nuisance section (s.3) of the Sanitation Regulations have been used in the past to deal with communicable disease risks associated with areas regulated under the Act or Regulations (where EHO have powers and/or duties) such as private sewage disposal and public pools.
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• EHOs will investigate these complaints and provide information on how people can go about resolving their insect infestation problem. This could include engaging pest control services from the private sector.
• The Department of Health and Community Services has also posted bed bug information sourced from Toronto Public Health on the NL government website at:
  http://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/publichealth/envhealth/insectinfestation.html
- Bedbugs are not considered a public health hazard in the traditional sense because they do not harbour and transmit pathogens that cause disease in humans that might come into contact with them. Their bites can be itchy and irritating. However, bedbug infestations may have a negative impact on the wellbeing of people living in infested housing by causing anxiety and sleeplessness. In addition, localized infections may occur at the site of bites.

- The Residential Tenancies Act provides a process for dealing with landlord and tenant issues and would provide some protection for the tenant in this regard. However, it should be noted that the landlord may evict any tenant with 90 days notice.

- It is also important to note that an initial contact with the City of St John's indicates that Hamilton Avenue is a single family dwelling. AES has confirmed that there are at least two rental units. This information will be reported to the City who may wish to follow up with the property owner.

- It is also noted that infestations of bed bugs are generally a housing issue and may disproportionately occur in housing occupied by vulnerable groups (e.g., poor, elderly and people with mental health issues) but also can affect the wider community (e.g., apartment buildings; row houses; hotels; correctional facilities). Given the complexities related to these issues and the various responsibilities of different departments and agencies, as well as municipal authorities, HCS will facilitate a further review in consultation with key stakeholders on whether and what type of additional action may be needed in this regard.
Thanks Gerry. I will add that piece if the tenant did not comply to vacate immediately.

From: Burke, Gerard
Sent: Tuesday, October 01, 2013 9:56 AM
To: Colman-Sadd, Vanessa
Cc: Williams, Sharon; Battcock, Terry; Kelland, Donna; McCarthy, Julian
Subject: RE: Bedbugs key messages

In the second bullet an order by us would only be required if the tenant did not comply with the landlords notice to vacate immediately. This is outlined in Section 20 of the Act. Section 38(4) gives me the authority to issue an order without conducting a hearing. We would use this section if the tenant failed to move immediately.

Gerry Burke
Director of Consumer Affairs
Service NL
Tel: (709) 729-2717
Fax: (709) 729-6998

From: Colman-Sadd, Vanessa
Sent: Tuesday, October 01, 2013 9:48 AM
To: Burke, Gerard; Williams, Sharon; Battcock, Terry; Kelland, Donna; McCarthy, Julian
Subject: Bedbugs key messages

Hi everyone,

Can you please have a look at these key messages for your respective areas and let me know ASAP of any changes etc. I’ve been asked to [redacted] this morning.

s. 20(1)(c)
Thanks
Vanessa
Key Messages
Bedbugs
October 1, 2013

Residential Tenancies
- Residential Tenancies governs the relationship between a tenant and a landlord. As such, we can act on a complaint from either party but we cannot act on a complaint from a third party.

- If a landlord feels that an action of a tenant or a failure to act by a tenant makes a premises unfit for human habitation then Service NL can order an emergency eviction of the tenant.

- There is no waiting period required in this type of notice, provided the required evidence including any reports and pictures is provided.

- Likewise if a tenant complains, the same situation would occur and the landlord would have to incur the costs of clean up.

Environmental Health
- Bedbugs, as identified by the Department of Health and Community Services, are not considered a health hazard as they do not carry communicable disease. As such, there is no legislation in place that compels the Provincial Government to order a clean up of an infestation.

- Environmental Health Officers of Service NL will follow up on complaints of bedbug infestations.

- If there is evidence of an infestation, they will contact the owner of the property to provide them with information about bedbugs and recommend immediate action be taken to contact a pest control company to exterminate the bedbugs.
HCS has made some changes to these key messages.
Key Messages
Bedbugs
October 1, 2013

Residential Tenancies

- Residential Tenancies governs the relationship between a tenant and a landlord. As such, we can act on a complaint from either party but we cannot act on a complaint from a third party.

- If a landlord feels that an action of a tenant or a failure to act by a tenant makes a premises unfit for human habitation then Service NL can order an emergency eviction of the tenant without a hearing taking place. This would occur if the tenant did not comply with the landlords notice to vacate immediately.

- There is no waiting period required in this type of notice, provided the required evidence including any reports and pictures is provided.

- Likewise if a tenant complains, the same situation would occur and the landlord would have to incur the costs of clean up.

Environmental Health

- Bedbugs are not considered a public health hazard because they do not harbour and transmit pathogens that cause disease in humans that might come into contact with them. As such, the legislation in place does not provide authority for the Provincial Government to order a clean-up of an infestation.

- Bedbug infestations may have a negative impact on the wellbeing of people living in infested housing by causing anxiety and sleeplessness. In addition, localized infections may occur at the site of bites.

- Environmental Health Officers of Service NL do respond to complaints of bedbug infestations.

- If there is evidence of an infestation, they will contact the owner of the property to provide them with information about bedbugs and recommend immediate action be taken to contact a pest control company to exterminate the bedbugs.

- In this particular situation, we have made several attempts to contact the homeowner of the property without success.
This is a first!

Hi Vanessa,

There's a story coming up tonight on CBC News: Here & Now that may be of interest to your members and colleagues.

Adam Walsh will report on a bed bug infestation in St. John's. The story is part of CBC Investigates and will air tonight at 5:30 pm NT.

Please feel free to share with members who may be interested.

Kindest regards,

--

Follow me on Twitter @
Ok. thanks
Department of Health & Community Services Executive Council Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
P.O.Box 8700 St.John's, NL Canada A1B 4J6

----- Original Message -----  
From: Kelland, Donna
Sent: Thursday, October 03, 2013 02:17 PM
To: Norman, David; Stockley, Colleen L.; Tilley, Jean E.
Subject: FW: Briefing Note - Bed Bug Infestation

This is supposed to be attached to the briefing note. DK

----- Original Message -----  
From: Williams, Sharon
Sent: Thursday, October 03, 2013 1:41 PM
To: Johnson, Darryl; Kelland, Donna
Cc: Curran, Rick J.
Subject: RE: Briefing Note - Bed Bug Infestation

Attached is the letter sent to [bleep] owner of [bleep] Hamilton Avenue.  

Please note that it was sent registered mail and has not been picked up according to Canada Post.

Sharon A. Williams, B.A.A.(EH), C.P.H.I.(C)
Manager of Operations
Environmental Health

Service NL
Government Service Centre
5 Mews Place
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6
Hi Donna:

Hamilton Avenue. In the bed bug briefing note we said it was attached. That the EHO sent to the landlord of

If you send it to me electronically, I will send it to Bruce’s secretary

Regards,

Darryl
Darryl Johnson
Director of Environmental Health
Population Health Branch
Department of Health and Community Services
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL
A1B 1Y1
Telephone: 709.729.3422
Email: djohnson@gov.nl.ca
September 23, 2013

Dear [Name]

It has come to the attention of Service NL that your apartment unit situated at [Address] Hamilton Avenue, St. John’s, NL is infested with bed bugs. Please find the enclosed pamphlet, titled: Bed Bug Information for Landlords and property Managers, for your review.

As you may be aware, bed bugs are wingless, oval, flat reddish brown insects that are about the size of a small apple seed. Bed bugs are not considered a traditional public health hazard because they do not harbor and transmit pathogens that cause disease in humans. It is, however, recognized that bed bug infestations may have a negative impact on the wellbeing of people living in infested housing.

Due to the easy spreadability of these insects, prompt attention to erradication is essential in order to limit the possible spread to adjoining properties. It is recommended that immediate action be taken to contact a licensed pest control operator to visit the above-noted property and exterminate the bed bugs.

If you have any further questions, then please do not hesitate to contact me. Further information regarding bed bugs can be found on the following website: http://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/publichealth/envhealth/insectinfestation.html.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Blake, CPHI(C)
Environmental Health Officer

Cc: Randy Carew, City of St. John’s
Sharon Williams, Service NL
Chris Nolan, Eastern Health
Here's the final version, as requested. Colleen Department of Health & Community Services Executive Council Government of Newfoundland and Labrador P.O.Box 8700 St.John's, NL Canada A1B 4J6

From: Stockley, Colleen L.
Sent: Tuesday, October 01, 2013 05:12 PM
To: Power, Bev
Subject: Please TRIM for me

I have a signed copy already. Just let me know when it has been trimmed and I will fill you in on the status.

Thanks, Colleen
Information Note

Department of Health and Community Services
Department of Service NL
Department of Advanced Education and Skills

Title: Bed Bug Infestation

Issue:
- To provide information on a bed bug infestation complaint in row housing on Hamilton Avenue in St. John’s, NL.

Background and Current Status:
- In late August, Service NL received a complaint from a homeowner at Hamilton Avenue about a bedbug infestation in their home which apparently originated from the neighbouring attached (rental) property at Hamilton Ave. § 30(1)
- An Environmental Health Officer (EHO) undertook an investigation which revealed the following:
  - The homeowner at Hamilton Avenue had initiated bed bug eradication using a licensed pest control operator. However, the eradication was unsuccessful because the source of the bed bugs at Hamilton Avenue had not been dealt with. § 30(1)
  - SNL made several unsuccessful attempts to contact the landlord of Hamilton Avenue to advise him as to how to deal with the infestation. § 30(1)
  - In an attempt to resolve the matter, the EHO sent a registered letter (see attachment) to the tenant with advice on how to eradicate the infestation given the impacts the infestation will have on his tenant and the people in the attached private homes. Service NL has not received confirmation that has received the letter. § 30(1)

- The Province does not have health legislation, regulations or standards specific to housing, including matters related to insect or other pest infestations, if they do not represent a risk to public health (i.e. carry a communicable disease).
- Section 5 of the Health and Community Services Act and the nuisance section (s.3) of the Sanitation Regulations have been used in the past to deal with communicable disease risks associated with areas regulated under the Act or Regulations (where EHO have powers and/or duties) such as private sewage disposal and public pools.
- These sections have not been used for non-communicable disease issues like insect infestations. The sections could possibly be used for insect infestations where disease transmission from insect to humans was a concern (e.g., mosquito control to prevent West Nile Virus). This is not the case with bed bugs.
- Nevertheless, insect infestation complaints and inquiries from the public are referred to EHOs with Service NL, who perform field service functions under an MOU with the Department of Health and Community Services.
- EHOs will investigate these complaints and provide information on how people can go about resolving their insect infestation problem. This could include engaging pest control services from the private sector.
- The Department of Health and Community Services has also posted bed bug information sourced from Toronto Public Health on the NL government website at: http://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/publichealth/envhealth/insectinfestation.html
• Bedbugs are not considered a public health hazard in the traditional sense because they do not harbour and transmit pathogens that cause disease in humans that might come into contact with them. Their bites can be itchy and irritating. However, bedbug infestations may have a negative impact on the wellbeing of people living in infested housing by causing anxiety and sleeplessness. In addition, localized infections may occur at the site of bites.

- The Residential Tenancies Act provides a process for dealing with landlord and tenant issues and would provide some protection for the tenant in this regard. However, it should be noted that the landlord may evict any tenant with 90 days notice.

- It is also important to note that an initial contact with the City of St John’s indicates that Hamilton Avenue is a single family dwelling. AES has confirmed that there are at least two rental units. This information will be reported to the City who may wish to follow up with the property owner.

- It is also noted that infestations of bed bugs are a generally a housing issue and may disproportionately occur in housing occupied by vulnerable groups (e.g., poor, elderly and people with mental health issues) but also can affect the wider community (e.g. apartment buildings; row houses; hotels; correctional facilities). Given the complexities related to these issues and the various responsibilities of different departments and agencies, as well as municipal authorities, HCS will facilitate a further review in consultation with key stakeholders on whether and what type of additional action may be needed in this regard.

Prepared by: Darryl Johnson/Colleen Stockley (HCS)/ Donna Kelland (SNL)/ Roxie Wheaton (AES)
Approved by:
October 1, 2013
Williams, Sharon

From: Johnson, Darryl
Sent: Wednesday, October 02, 2013 7:52 AM
To: Curran, Rick J; Baticcoth, Terry; Williams, Sharon
Cc: Chris Nolan
Subject: Briefing Note
Attachments: HCS SNL AES - Bed Bugs Information note - final(v2) (3).doc

Good morning:

I believe this is the final version of the briefing note.

Please note the sections from AES.

- [Redacted does provide for fumigation, however in most rental accommodations the Department would refer to their landlord. In instances where the landlord fails to respond the Department will consider.]

- Since the news story [Redacted who has consented to have a pest control company fumigate the apartment. However details have come to light which has confirmed there is second rental unit at the address] [Redacted -s. 30(1)]

- [Redacted The Residential Tenancies Act provides a process for dealing with landlord and tenant issues and would provide some protection for the tenant in this regard. However, it should be noted that the landlord may evict any tenant with 90 days notice.]

- It is also important to note that an initial contact with the City of St John's indicates that [Redacted Hamilton Avenue is a single family dwelling. AES has confirmed that there are at least two rental units. This information will be reported to the City who may wish to follow up with the property owner.]

You may want to share this information with Nicholas who I believe was handling the complaint for SNL.

Regards,
Darryl
Information Note

Department of Health and Community Services
Department of Service NL
Department of Advanced Education and Skills

Title: Bed Bug Infestation

Issue:
• To provide information on a bed bug infestation complaint in row housing on Hamilton Avenue in St. John’s, NL.

Background and Current Status:
• In late August, Service NL received a complaint from a homeowner at[Redacted] Hamilton Avenue about a bed bug infestation in their home which apparently originated from the neighbouring attached (rental) property at[Redacted] Hamilton Avenue.  
• An Environmental Health Officer (EHO) undertook an investigation which revealed the following:
  1. The homeowner at[Redacted] Hamilton Avenue had initiated bed bug eradication using a licensed pest control operator. However, the eradication was unsuccessful because the source of the bed bugs at[Redacted] Hamilton Avenue had not been dealt with.
  2. SNL made several unsuccessful attempts to contact the landlord of[Redacted] Hamilton Avenue to advise him as to how to deal with the infestation.
  3. In an attempt to resolve the matter, the EHO sent a registered letter (see attachment) to[Redacted] with advice on how to eradicate the infestation given the impacts the infestation will have on his tenant and the people in the attached private homes. Service NL has not received confirmation that[Redacted] has received the letter.
  4. The Province does not have health legislation, regulations or standards specific to housing, including matters related to insect or other pest infestations, if they do not represent a risk to public health (i.e. carry a communicable disease).
  5. Section 5 of the Health and Community Services Act and the nuisance section (s.3) of the Sanitation Regulations have been used in the past to deal with communicable disease risks associated with areas regulated under the Act or Regulations (where EHO have powers and/or duties) such as private sewage disposal and public pools.
  6. These sections have not been used for non-communicable disease issues like insect infestations. The sections could possibly be used for insect infestations where disease transmission from insect to humans was a concern (e.g., mosquito control to prevent West Nile Virus). This is not the case with bed bugs.
  7. Nevertheless, insect infestation complaints and inquiries from the public are referred to EHOs with Service NL, who perform field service functions under an MOU with the Department of Health and Community Services.
  8. EHOs will investigate these complaints and provide information on how people can go about resolving their insect infestation problem. This could include engaging pest control services from the private sector.
  9. The Department of Health and Community Services has also posted bed bug information sourced from Toronto Public Health on the NL government website at:
   http://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/publichealth/envhealth/insectinfestation.html

-1-
Bedbugs are not considered a public health hazard in the traditional sense because they do not harbour and transmit pathogens that cause disease in humans that might come into contact with them. Their bites can be itchy and irritating. However, bedbug infestations may have a negative impact on the wellbeing of people living in infested housing by causing anxiety and sleeplessness. In addition, localized infections may occur at the site of bites.

Section 30(1) does provide for fumigation; however, in most rental accommodations the Department would refer to their landlord. In instances where the landlord fails to respond the Department will consider. However, details have come to light which has confirmed there is another rental unit at the address who has consented to have a pest control company fumigate the apartment.

The Residential Tenancies Act provides a process for dealing with landlord and tenant issues and would provide some protection for the tenant in this regard. However, it should be noted that the landlord may evict any tenant with 90 days notice.

It is also important to note that an initial contact with the City of St John’s indicates that Hamilton Avenue is a single family dwelling. AES has confirmed that there are at least two rental units. This information will be reported to the City who may wish to follow up with the property owner.

It is also noted that infestations of bed bugs are a generally a housing issue and may disproportionately occur in housing occupied by vulnerable groups (e.g., poor, elderly, and people with mental health issues) but also can affect the wider community (e.g., apartment buildings; row houses; hotels; correctional facilities). Given the complexities related to these issues and the various responsibilities of different departments and agencies, as well as municipal authorities, HCS will facilitate a further review in consultation with key stakeholders on whether and what type of additional action may be needed in this regard.

Prepared by: Darryl Johnson/Colleen Stockley (HCS)/ Donna Kelland (SNL)/ Roxie Wheaton (AES)

Approved by:

October 1, 2013
Information Note

Department of Health and Community Services
Department of Service NL
Department of Advanced Education and Skills

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Since the news story in two units of the apartment who have consented to have a pest control company fumigate. Both units were fumigated on the evening of Oct 2.

The Residential Tenancies Act provides a process for dealing with landlord and tenant issues and would provide some protection for the tenant in this regard. However, it should be noted that the landlord may evict any tenant with 90 days notice.

It is also important to note that an initial contact with the City of St John's indicates that Hamilton Avenue is a single family dwelling. AES has confirmed that there are at least two rental units. This information will be reported to the City who may wish to follow up with the property owner.

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Prepared by: Darryl Johnson/Colleen Stockley (HCS)/ Donna Keiland (SNL)/ Roxie Wheaton (AES)

Approved by:

October 4, 2013