

EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS ON BEDBUG

JULY 16 & JULY 30, 2016



Organized by: Neighborhood Empowerment and Resource Centre
Incorporated (NEARC Inc.)



Financially Supported by:



Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living under Bedbug Grant Program

A SUMMARY REPORT ON EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS ON BEDBUG



Prepared By:

Neighborhood Empowerment & Resource Centre Incorporated (NEARC Inc.)

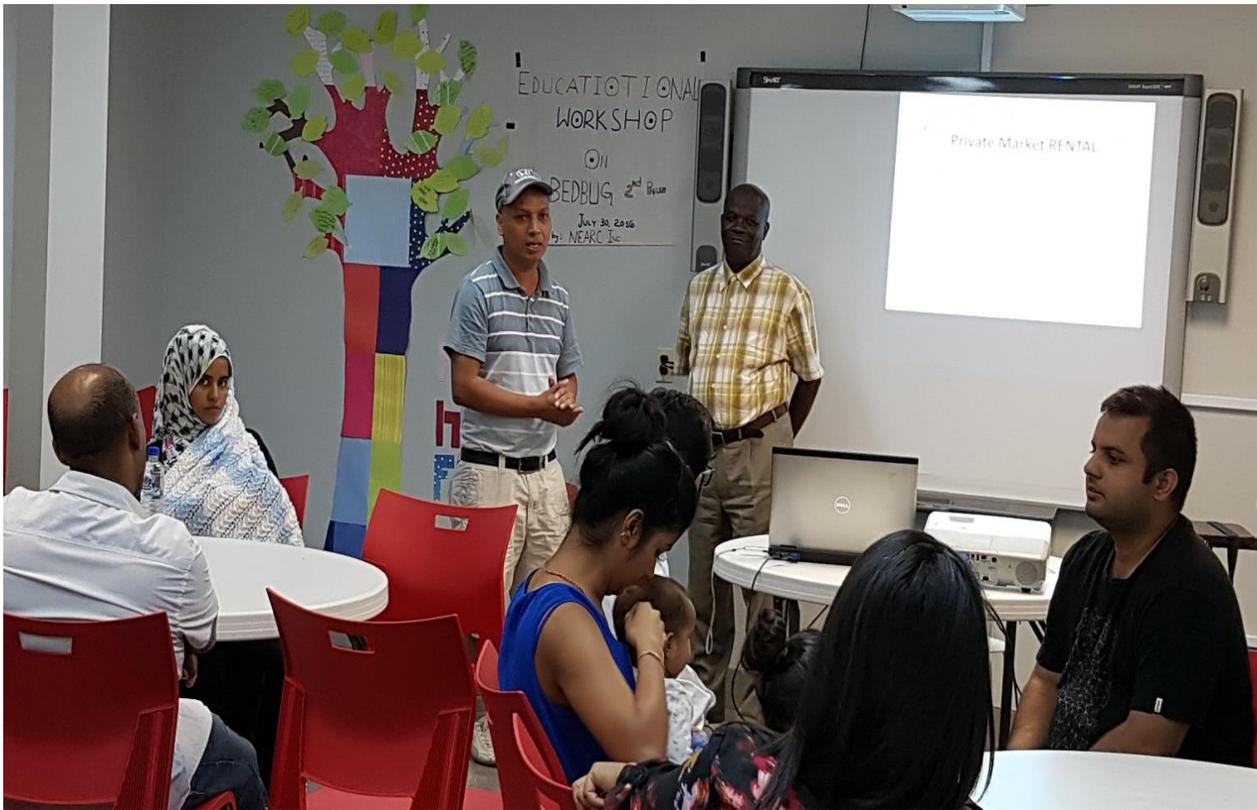
On July 16th, 2016 and July 30th, 2016 NEARC Inc. organized an Educational Workshop Series on Bedbug at its main office located at 300-61 Juno Street, Winnipeg. These workshops were attended by participants from eight different ethnic communities. They were represented by Amharic speaking community, Arabic speaking community, Bhutanese speaking community, Burmese speaking community, Nepalese speaking community, Punjabi (Indian) speaking community, Somali speaking community, Swahili speaking community. These workshop series were financially supported by Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living under Bedbug Grant Program. The workshop was attended by 38 participants representing those eight communities. In order to make the presentation simple and be understood, plain language was used and simultaneously interpreted in eight different languages using respective interpreters.

We are very happy to share that we received such a positive response and active participation from diverse communities. In the meantime, our one of the major challenges was not only manage eight different language speaking interpreters but also communicating with the participants from eight communities. Due to our great networks, dedication and great commitment, we were able to have participants representing such a diverse community.

This workshops were geared towards NEARC's approach in educating newcomer families in one of the challenges mostly faced by newcomers simply due to lack of proper information on bedbug and seek help from the right authorities. Thus, during the two hours' period, they not only gained information on bedbug, they were also geared with resources they need to seek if they have any issues with bedbug. They are trained as community ambassador who would be able to impart the knowledge and information provided to their family members and other community members. Hence, we had two step approach while tailoring these workshops- directly inform, educate and aware participants, especially newcomer families about bedbug and second step is that they will further share what they have learned. Basically, NEARC serves as a resource pool between various newcomer families and community resources/government services & other resources.

Objectives:

- To inform newcomer families on issues of bedbug
- To educate and aware them on bedbug issues
- To direct them to right resources
- To encourage them to share with broader communities
- It had two-fold objective, first educating them and they can further educate others



Recommendations:

- Participants strongly recommended to replicate such sessions in other communities.
- Majority of the participants wanted similar events for other pertinent topics such as Financial Literacy, Community Capacity Building, Child and Family Services related issues, legal system, employment and training
- Some suggested sessions on intergenerational gap and intercultural emergence
- Many of the participants requested to have similar workshops supported by interpreters in many ethnic languages.
- Some recommended to have the Government Representatives to present the programs and workshops.



Outcome:

The most important message/outcome we got from this two-hour session is that if the program is need-based or community focused, people will participate and fully engage into it. Since many community members had requested to have such information language in plain language and without any language barrier, this was a very success event despite the short notice, many different communities involved. Since the information session, we have received overwhelming response from various communities and to better serve their concern, we are holding a meeting on January 28 with Catherine Gates, Director, Planning and Policy Development at Workforce Development and Income Support Division of Manitoba.



For more Information, please contact:

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