

Complaint mailed to apartment owner

London landlord
Elijah Elieff has 15
days to respond.

By Alison Uncles *Jan 13 '90*
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The Ontario Human Rights Commission has mailed a complaint by one of his Cambodian tenants to London landlord Elijah Elieff, giving him 15 days to respond.

Chippeng Hom, a resident of a 105 Cheyenne Ave. apartment, lodged the complaint against her landlord under the harassment in accommodation section of the 1981 human rights code.

Hom's six written complaints include a statement that Elieff told her "your people (are) like cockroaches." She said she was asked if she is "a good girl or a bad girl"

when she asked for a larger apartment.

She also said Elieff's statement to a Free Press reporter last November — that his tenants were "like little pigs" — was "demeaning to my Cambodian ancestry."

Hom said in her complaint that Elieff had created a "poisoned environment" for her two children to live in at 105 Cheyenne.

Hom said Friday, through her 14-year-old daughter, she will be happy if Elieff stops "calling us pigs and putting us down."

"Everybody is different and you can't put us down just because we are different."

Rick Harrington, an officer with the commission, said that since Hom registered her complaints in November, he has established that Elieff's comments to Hom were not isolated incidents but "continuous."

The complaint might have been

resolved sooner, Harrington said, "but this one has relevance that would be better served with the full attention of the commission."

Elieff, who owns apartment buildings at 95 and 105 Cheyenne, could not be reached for comment.

THE PROCEDURE

- A complaint lodged with the human rights commission can be dealt with as quickly as an hour after it is lodged, often over the telephone, through the commission's early settlement initiative.
- If the commission thinks the complaint points to an issue that would be "in the public's interest" to be examined further, a written complaint is sent to both parties and the person who is defending the action or statement has 15 days to respond.
- If the issue still can't be resolved, a fact-finding session takes place where the human rights officer sits down with both parties.
- An investigation could be launched by the officer to further probe both sides.
- The last resort is a board of inquiry, a quasi-judicial body appointed by the minister of citizenship, which hears testimony of both parties under oath, and renders a decision, sometimes handing down a fine.