

CHEYENNE AVENUE APARTMENTS**Human rights complaints probed**

A tenant filed six complaints against landlord Elijah Elieff under an harassment section of the human rights code.



By Alison Uncles
The London Free Press

The Ontario Human Rights Commission launched an investigation Friday into complaints lodged last year against London landlord Elijah Elieff.

The commission has skipped an initial fact-finding stage in its process because "that's just a waste of time in this case, the views are

so polarized," said Rick Harrington, a London commission officer.

Harrington said he will interview members of the media and apartment residents at 95 and 105 Cheyenne Ave. over the next month to determine whether six complaints lodged last November against Elieff, the buildings' landlord, are legitimate.

The commission will try to resolve the complaints after the investigation, but Harrington said it could go to the last resort: a board of inquiry that hears testimony of both parties under oath, renders a decision, and sometimes hands down a fine.

Chippeng Hom, a resident of 105 Cheyenne, lodged a complaint against her landlord in November 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 also asked if she was a "good girl or a bad girl" when she asked for a larger apartment.

MENTIONS ASIANS: She said through an interpreter Friday that she "does not want to have the landlord look down on Asian people," and "understands that this whole process has to take time."

In a letter sent to Hom through the commission, Elieff wrote: "The allegations . . . (are) not true. Because I am a good person, good new Canadian, good businessman, good father."

He wrote: "She said she is Cambodian, I say I am Macedonian so we are all immigrants . . . I only am working hard to take care of my company's properties." Elieff could not be reached for comment Friday.

Harrington said the investigation stage should be complete by the end of April, and it's up to the commission to decide whether the complaint proceeds to the board of inquiry.

"The issues that the board deals with are matters that are in the public interest," Harrington said, "and this certainly has all the criteria covered."