

Landlord's racial letter sparks complaint

by UPI

LASALLE, Ontario -- An interracial couple outside Windsor, Ontario, is challenging their landlord over a letter in which a mold complaint was answered with racial references. Vincent and Rebecca Cardwell of Lasalle told the Windsor Star they informed their landlord a contractor had confirmed their house had a black mold infestation that needed to be addressed quickly, as it was causing respiratory problems among their four children, who range in age from 2 to 14 years old. In a March 7 written response, landlord Olga Crocker suggested the problem was caused by negligence and ended on a racial note, the newspaper reported. "May I point out that, realizing that black people and those of mixed relationships have considerable difficulty finding housing, I decided to trust you. Evidently, this was a very stupid mistake on my part." Contacted by the Star, Crocker claimed she had done nothing wrong. "In any event, I'm a private individual. I'm entitled to my own prejudices. I'm not the government, I don't hire anyone. Is there a law against being a bigot?" she said. The Cardwells are preparing complaints to the Landlord and Tenant Board and the Ontario Human Rights Commission, the newspaper said.

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