

Smoke-Free Housing:

Ask for it! Offer it!

Change is in the air

The vast majority of Ontarians don't smoke and prefer smoke-free environments, especially their own homes. An increasing number of Canadian households, including those where smokers live, do not permit smoking indoors.ⁱ In multi-unit housing (MUH), secondhand smoke (SHS) can travel between units through cracks and gaps and shared ventilation systems. Unfortunately, about a third of Ontarians living in MUH report regular exposure from neighbouring units. With 38% of Ontarians living in apartments, condominiums and other types of MUH,ⁱⁱ we estimate over 1.5 million people are regularly exposed to SHS in their own homes.ⁱⁱⁱ

Many Ontarians are unaware that no-smoking policies are legal, enforceable and non-discriminatory.

There's no safe level of exposure to **secondhand smoke**—chronic exposure causes heart disease and cancer, and makes existing health problems like asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) worse.

There is no such thing as the “right to smoke.” Landlords don't realize that smoking can be prohibited inside private units, and even outdoors on the property. Likewise, many tenants are not aware that they can ask for smoke-free. Support for smoke-free housing will continue to increase as people realize that change is possible. In fact, 84% of Ontarians

already believe smoking should not be allowed inside apartment buildings with shared ventilation.^{iv}

Smoking in the home decreases property value by up to 29% and real estate agents and brokers overwhelmingly agree that it is more difficult to sell a home that has been smoked in.^v Smoking also remains the number one cause of fatal residential fires in Ontario.^{vi}

For more information on smoke-free housing, including how to adopt and enforce a no-smoking policy, visit us online at:

www.smokefreehousingon.ca

ⁱ Statistics Canada. *Canadian Tobacco Use Monitoring Survey (CTUMS) - Historical Tables 1999 – 2011*. http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hc-ps/tobac-tabac/research-recherche/stat/_ctums-esutc_2011/ann-histo-eng.php#7.

ⁱⁱ Statistics Canada. *2011 Census*. <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/bsolc/olc-cel/olc-cel?catno=98-313-X2011022&lang=eng>.

ⁱⁱⁱ Smoke-Free Housing Ontario. *Ipsos Reid multi-unit dwelling second-hand smoke survey, 2010*.

<http://www.smokefreehousingon.ca/sfho/tenants-tenant-surveys.html>.

^{iv} Ontario Tobacco Research Unit. *Monitoring and Evaluation Series, Vol. 14/15*. Toronto, Canada: Ontario Tobacco Research Unit, OTRU Special Report, Jan 2010. http://www.otru.org/pdf/15mr/15mr_no2.pdf.

^v Pfizer Canada Inc. *Up in smoke: Smoking in the home can lower resale value by tens of thousands*. 16 April 2013. <http://www.newswire.ca/en/story/1146741/up-in-smoke-smoking-in-the-home-can-lower-resale-value-by-tens-of-thousands>.

^{vi} Ontario Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services. *Ontario Fatal Fires: 10 years (2003 – 2012)*. http://www.mcscs.jus.gov.on.ca/english/FireMarshal/MediaRelationsandResources/FireStatistics/OntarioFatalities/FatalFiresSummary/stats_fatal_summary.html.

