

**Insert for Municipal Newsletter
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Ask for, and offer, smoke-free apartments

We all know that breathing secondhand smoke is dangerous. It increases the risk of cancers, lung disease and many childhood illnesses. If you live in a dwelling with shared walls and neighbors smoke, it is seeping into your unit through cracks and ventilation systems.

It's time to make healthy changes! Landlords and tenants can work together to make smoke-free housing a reality. It's a win-win situation. Renters and their families can protect their health, and landlords can protect their property investments.

For landlords it makes smart business sense to have No Smoking units. It saves money. The cost to clean and repair a unit where there has been regular smoking can be two to three times more than non-smoking units. The chemicals from the smoke seep into walls and carpeting and can even damage the seals on refrigerator doors.

Smoke-free buildings reduce the risk of fire. Landlords with No Smoking policies may be eligible for reduced insurance premiums.

More than 70% of Simcoe Muskoka adults are nonsmokers so renters and condo buyers can be vocal about wanting to live smoke free. Ask for a No Smoking building before you sign on the dotted line.

No Smoking buildings are both legal and enforceable. A No Smoking clause can be added to leases as units become vacant. It may take time for multi-unit buildings to become 100% smoke free. The sooner you get started the sooner you can breathe easy.

For more information check out the health unit website [at simcoemuskokahealth.org](http://simcoemuskokahealth.org) or call Your Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520.