

# LANDLORDS AND HOUSING PROVIDERS: MAKE YOUR MULTI-UNIT HOUSING SMOKE-FREE

Do you know how to address the growing demand for smoke-free multi-unit housing? York Region Public Health can support you. A recent survey suggests 73 ( $\pm 7$ ) per cent of York Region adults living in a multi-unit building support banning smoking everywhere in their buildings, including inside units, shared indoor spaces, balconies and patios (Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System (RRFSS), 2015).

Addressing tenant complaints of drifting smoke from neighbouring units can be time consuming and turning over smokers' units can be costly. Learn what you can do to support smoke-free multi-unit housing to help your residents breathe easier and save you time and money.

## SMOKE-FREE MULTI-UNIT HOUSING POLICY

Even with air filters, purifiers and ventilation systems, the only effective way to eliminate second-hand smoke from entering neighbouring units is to make your building smoke-free. There are laws in place to protect residents from second-hand smoke. The [Smoke-Free Ontario Act](#) (SFOA) prohibits smoking and vaping in common areas of [multi-unit housing](#) such as party rooms, lobby areas, elevators, enclosed parking and laundry facilities. To report smoking and vaping in areas restricted by the Smoke-free Ontario Act (SFOA) and other tobacco or electronic cigarette-related violations, visit [Smoking Laws](#) on [york.ca](#). The SFOA does not prohibit smoking or vaping inside individual units, on balconies and patios, or around building entrances. However, you can legally develop a smoke-free policy for your multi-unit housing that goes beyond the SFOA.

### Tips to help implement a smoke-free multi-unit housing policy in your building

1. Establish a committee or working group that will take on the issue.
2. Survey tenants to understand the extent of the second-hand smoke exposure and their level of support for various smoke-free policy options.
3. Develop a communication plan to keep tenants informed of what's happening throughout the process.
4. Develop an enforcement plan.

To get help developing a smoke-free housing policy and quit support for your tenants, please contact York Region Public Health's Tobacco-free Living Services at [tobaccofreeliving@york.ca](mailto:tobaccofreeliving@york.ca) or call Access York at 1-877-464-9675, TTY 1-866-512- 6228

For more tools and resources, visit [Tools and Resources for Landlords](#) or [smokefreehousingon.ca](#)  
Smoking is an addiction. For resources to help your tenants quit, visit [york.ca/tobacco](#)

#### PUBLIC HEALTH

1-877-464-9675  
TTY 1-866-512-6228  
[york.ca/tobacco](#)



## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [How do you make a multi-unit housing building smoke-free?](#), York Region Public Health
- [How to implement a no-smoking policy for a multi-unit dwelling: A protocol for rental housing](#), Smoke Free Housing Ontario
- [A landlord & property manager's guide to smoke-free housing](#), Smoke Free Housing Ontario