



OCSH Urges Landlords and Property Managers to Implement 100% Smoke-Free Policies for Multi-Unit Housing in Ottawa in Celebration of National Non-Smoking Week 2017

Ottawa, January 12, 2017—The Ottawa Council on Smoking or Health (OCSH) urges landlords and property managers to implement 100% smoke-free policies for multi-unit housing in Ottawa in celebration of **National Non-Smoking Week (January 15-21, 2017)**.

“Exposure to second-hand smoke in multi-unit housing is the number one complaint that we receive every year from Ottawa residents,” says Carol McDonald, president of the OCSH.

“Asthmatics, including young children, and seniors with chronic health conditions are exposed to second-hand smoke every day,” says Ms. McDonald. “Another major fire in Ottawa on December 31, 2016, likely caused by a carelessly discarded cigarette, highlights the need for more smoke-free apartments. Twenty people lost their homes in a fire that was preventable.”

Smoke-free housing reduces the risk of fire and fatalities, protects vulnerable individuals from second-hand smoke, helps smokers quit and stay smoke-free, saves landlords and property owners thousands of dollars in cleaning and insurance costs, and increases the resale value of property.

Cigarettes are the number one ignition source in fatal fires in Ontario.¹

The OCSH recommends that all multi-unit housing in Ottawa go 100% smoke-free before the federal government legalizes the use of marijuana. The OCSH also receives many complaints about second-hand marijuana smoke in multi-unit housing. Health Canada warns that many of the harmful chemicals found in tobacco smoke are also found in marijuana smoke.²

“We are very concerned about the additional health risks that legalized marijuana use will pose for individuals and families living in apartment units. Second-hand marijuana smoke in multi-unit housing is already a public health concern in our community,” says Ms. McDonald.

For details on the OCSH’s advocacy campaign for 100% smoke-free housing:

<http://www.smokefreeottawa.com/smoke-free-housing.html>

The OCSH is a local volunteer group that has advocated for smoke-free environments for almost 40 years.

For more information:

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REFERENCES

¹ Ontario Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services. Fire Loss in Ontario 2009–2013 Causes, Trends and Issues.

https://www.mcscs.jus.gov.on.ca/english/FireMarshal/MediaRelationsandResources/FireStatistics/OntarioFires/FireLossesCausesTrendsIssues/stats_causes.html

² Health Canada. Consumer Information - Cannabis (Marihuana, marijuana).

<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/marihuana/info/cons-eng.php>