

Second-Hand Smoke
in Multi-Unit Dwellings:
Change is in the Air

National Conference on Tobacco or Health
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Agenda

- Overview of situation in Canada
- Outcomes from 1st National Forum on SHS in MUDs:
 - Barriers to smoke-free housing identified
 - Solutions
- Conclusions

Overview of Situation in Canada

- Second-hand smoke (SHS) in multi-unit dwellings (MUDs) an emerging public issue
- Less tolerance of SHS in all settings
- Demand for smoke-free accommodations
- No *right to smoke* enshrined in Canadian legislation

Overview of Situation in Canada

- Canadian Smoke-free Housing Coalition formed in 2006
- Advocating choice for landlords, tenants
- Seeking ways to address condos
- Not seeking a legislated ban on smoking in the home

Overview of Situation in Canada

- Legal in all provinces and territories for a landlord to declare property smoke-free
- However, landlords cannot directly evict for breach of a smoke-free policy in:
 - Alberta – dealt with under contract law
 - Ontario – damage, quiet enjoyment
 - Quebec – prove serious injury
 - New Brunswick – Rentalsman case by case basis

First National Forum on SHS in MUDs

- Landlords
 - For profit, market rate
 - Non-profit, social housing
- Public health advocates
- Government
 - Federal and provincial health reps
- Focused on apartments, not condos

Barriers Identified

- Strategic
 - No national goals, objectives
- Resources
 - Lack of financial, human
- Advocacy/Awareness
 - Landlords not aware they can go smoke-free
 - Issue not on radar screen for tenant organizations, governments

Barriers Identified

- Legal
 - Real or perceived barriers about creating and enforcing smoke-free lease provisions
 - Lack of policy guidelines on SHS
- Political
 - Lack of awareness, understanding

Solutions

Strategic

- Develop a national framework/strategy
 - Communications strategy
 - National objectives and targets
 - Consistent messages
 - Support for smokers

Solutions

Resources

- Use and promote national website:
www.smokefreehousing.ca
- Assign more people to the smoke-free file
- Seek funding
- Network
 - Teleconferences, listservs, workshops, conferences

Solutions

Advocacy and Awareness

- Forge relationships with key stakeholders
- Gather data
- Develop communications materials
- Generate media coverage of issue
- Build demand and supply

Solutions

Legal

- Seek legal opinions about enforcement
- Track landlord and tenant board decisions
- Create policy guidelines on SHS for landlord and tenant boards/adjudicators

Solutions

Political

- Educate politicians about Coalition's objectives
 - Advocating choice
 - Not seeking a ban in MUDs
- Get the message to politicians and media that tobacco is not “done”

Conclusion

- Canadian Smoke-free Housing Coalition
- www.smokefreehousing.ca
- Canadian and international listservs
- Resources
- SHAF/NSRA workshops
- “Open Space” tomorrow 12 – 5:30

Conclusion

Coming soon to
your
neighbourhood...

