

RentSafe Owen Sound Collaborative

About the RentSafe Owen Sound Survey of Landlords and Property Managers

September 2021



Introduction

The [RentSafe Owen Sound Collaborative](#) is reaching out to housing providers and tenants to get a better picture of rental housing conditions and concerns in Owen Sound. The Collaborative, a voluntary collaboration of agencies, community organizations, landlords, and tenants working to support healthy and dignified housing, is conducting an online survey of landlords and property managers, to be followed by a similar survey with tenants.

About the survey of landlords and property managers

The RentSafe Owen Sound survey of landlords and property managers is open to anyone who owns or operates residential rental properties in Owen Sound, including private market, non-profit, and social housing. The purpose of the voluntary survey to find out more about:

- rental housing conditions in our community, and
- the types of issues and challenges that housing providers are facing.

The results of the anonymous survey will be used to inform possible actions to support landlords in maintaining healthy conditions in their rental units and improve housing conditions for tenants.

The survey invites landlords and property managers to share their views and experiences regarding a range of issues including:

- percentage of their rental units affected by issues such as flooding, plumbing leaks, mould, bedbugs, rodents, other pests, structural disrepair/damage, heating issues, pet damage;
- percentage of their rental units requiring significant/costly repairs;
- challenges with maintaining units, such as difficulty hiring contractors or tenants not providing timely access;
- experiences involving tenants, such as conflictive relations, concerns about tenant mental health, hoarding, or illicit activities;
- experiences with services such as housing support programs, social services, by-law enforcement, and the Landlord & Tenant Board;
- anticipated changes to the ownership/management of their rental properties, such as renovation/upgrades, conversion to short-term rentals, anticipated sale to outside investor, etc.;
- effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on experiences as landlords/property managers.

The survey takes 12-15 minutes to complete. To access the online survey, visit rentsafe.ca/owen-sound. For those who prefer, a paper copy can be obtained from Y Housing at 519-371-9222, extension 5.

The survey questionnaire was created by members of the RentSafe Owen Sound Collaborative, based in part on a City of Montreal tenant survey on rental housing conditions. It is a joint initiative of the **Grey Bruce Health Unit**, the **Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force**, **Community Voices**, and **RentSafe**.

The survey is being conducted in collaboration with Dr. Erica Phipps at the University of Ottawa, who led the RentSafe EquiP community-based research in Owen Sound (see below) and serves as director of the Ontario-wide [RentSafe](#) initiative. The University of Ottawa has granted research ethics approval for the survey.

The survey will launch on **September 15, 2021** and remain open until October 31st.

Why this survey?

The [RentSafe EquiP](#) community-based participatory research in Owen Sound (2017-2020) documented multiple challenges that contribute to unhealthy and unsafe conditions in low-income rental housing, which in turn exacerbate health inequities. The research also revealed a lack of data about substandard conditions, such as mould, pests, structural disrepair and inadequate heat, in rental housing units in the community.

Taken together, the results of the landlord/property manager survey and tenant survey will paint a more fulsome picture of the rental housing situation in Owen Sound. As such, it will provide a strong foundation for community dialogue and solution-building.

The results of the current survey will shed light on opportunities to better support landlords in providing safe and healthy rental housing, including the needs of small-scale landlords. Given the current scarcity of adequate and affordable rental units in Owen Sound, the survey may provide useful insights into how to support and retain landlords who provide low-income housing options in the community.

About the RentSafe Owen Sound Collaborative

The RentSafe Owen Sound Collaborative is a voluntary collaboration among people from various agencies and organizations as well as landlords and tenants who have been working together since October 2019 towards the goal of healthy and dignified housing for all. Most of the ~25 individuals involved in the Collaborative forged relationships and a shared commitment to tackling housing inadequacy through their involvement in the RentSafe EquiP research.

Members of the RentSafe Owen Sound Collaborative are working together to (1) better understand the causes and consequences of housing inadequacy as seen from multiple viewpoints, and (2) foster new ways of conceiving of issues and potential solutions. For more information: rentsafe.ca/owen-sound.

For more information:

To learn more about the survey or the RentSafe Owen Sound Collaborative more generally, please contact:

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- Erica Phipps, Director, RentSafe / Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Ottawa, ephipps@uottawa.ca

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