



RentSafe

Connecting people across sectors towards healthy housing for all.

A collaborative initiative led by the
Canadian Partnership for Children's Health and Environment (CPCHE)

Invitation to participate in survey of public health units on approaches to unhealthy housing conditions and health equity in Ontario

Dear colleague,

We invite you to participate in a survey of public health professionals about addressing unhealthy rental housing conditions in Ontario through collaboration and community engagement.

Housing is a basic need, a determinant of health and is now recognized as a human right in Canada. Yet, for many people, their housing jeopardizes their health and well-being. Low-income renters disproportionately experience a cumulative burden of health inequities due to poor housing conditions and lack of housing availability and affordability.

As an active partner in [RentSafe](#), [Ontario Public Health Association](#) (OPHA) is collaborating on a province-wide survey of Public Health Units to collect a comprehensive snapshot of the current practices, opportunities and barriers for Public Health Units and practitioners to address unhealthy conditions in rental housing.

This survey aims to address the pervasive issue of housing habitability concerns in rental housing by informing and catalyzing preventive and proactive responses across Public Health and other sectors in the housing system. It provides an opportunity to reflect, contextualize practice, share promising practices and identify opportunities for ongoing improvement.

The survey is being conducted in English and is expected to take approximately 30 minutes to complete. Please complete the survey before December 18, 2023: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YR5GBSF>

We are seeking at least 1 response from each Public Health Unit in Ontario. Responses from multiple practitioners and/or teams are welcome. Our hope is that this survey can reflect the practices across relevant departments (e.g., Population Health; Health Equity; Chronic Disease Prevention and Well-Being; Healthy Environments; Healthy Growth and Development; Infectious and Communicable Diseases Prevention and Control).

Your perspective matters. Results will be shared through OPHA networks and will include a report and resources highlighting promising practices, practical inspiration and guidance on building equity and improving collaboration toward the goal of healthy housing for all.

Thank you in advance for your participation. For any questions or comments please reach out or contact Geri Blinick, RentSafe Project Manager, at geri@healthyenvironmentforkids.ca.

Sincerely,

Kevin Churchill, Board President, *OPHA*

Helen Doyle, Chair, *OPHA - Environmental Health Work Group*

Erica Phipps, Director, *RentSafe* & Executive Director, *Canadian Partnership for Children's Health and Environment*

Gerri Blinick, Project Manager, *RentSafe*