



Highlights of Ipsos Reid Research on Drifting Second-Hand Smoke in Multi-Unit Dwellings

According to the Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation (CMHC), multi-unit housing is the **fastest growing segment** of the housing market. According to Statistics Canada (**2001 census, as 2006 census data on housing is not yet released**), there are **more than four (4) million Ontarians** living in multi-unit dwellings:

<http://www40.statcan.ca/l01/cst01/famil55b.htm>

According to Ipsos Reid surveys conducted in March and November 2006, with a sample of more than 1800 and a margin of error of 2.9%, 19 times out of 20, many of those in multi-unit dwellings are affected by drifting smoke:

- **A majority (64%)** of all multi-unit dwellers would likely **choose a smoke-free building** over one where smoking is permitted
- Almost half (46%) have had tobacco smoke odour enter their unit in the past 12 months from somewhere else in their building
- The tobacco smoke odour usually seeps in primarily via the hallways (47%), windows (41%), shared ventilation (21%), air leaks(18%) and through bathroom or kitchen fans (13%)
- Despite the Smoke-free Ontario Act, **just half say smoking is prohibited in hallways, the lobby/common areas and the laundry room**
- **Fifty-seven percent (57%) would support a smoking ban** in their multi-unit dwelling

Of those multi-unit dwellers bothered by the smoke:

- Seven in ten (70%) say it bothered them -14% either moved (4%), or considered moving (10%), as a result of the smoke intrusion
 - *To put this in perspective, 32% of all multi-unit dwellers in Ontario are bothered by this intrusive smoke and a total of approximately 6% of all multi-unit dwellers either moved or considered moving because of it*
- Four in ten (41%) consider it a personal health hazard and one third (32%) consider it an infringement upon their life and privacy
- Three in ten (27%) made suggestions or grievances to their landlord or another outside agency about the smoke
 - *Six in ten who made complaints didn't get a response -three in ten were told that there was nothing that could be done*
- One in seven (16%) of those with units affected by second hand smoke say that they or someone in their household suffered from a smoking-related illness or worsened condition
 - *Illness/conditions such as Asthma (68%), COPD (16%), Heart disease (6%) and Lung Cancer (6%).*