



Rental Housing Licensing Inquiry: Waterloo

Tenant survey

The Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) is inquiring into whether the new rental housing licensing bylaw in Waterloo creates discriminatory barriers to housing for people, contrary to the Ontario *Human Rights Code*. The OHRC has prepared surveys for landlords, tenants and organizations (community groups, advocates, service providers, etc.) to complete. They are available online at: **www.ohrc.on.ca**

Surveys must include your name, city and contact information (either a telephone number or email address). This lets us follow up on the information collected. Anonymous submissions cannot be accepted, but all personal information will be kept confidential as required by the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. Only your survey responses may be included in a public report.

NOTE: By submitting this survey, you are agreeing to our collection and use of your survey responses while protecting your personal information, as described above.

The Waterloo bylaw

As of April 1, 2012, rental housing will be subject to licensing. Bedrooms in rental units must have seven square metres per person. Any rental unit with more than four bedrooms will be classified as a lodging house. Lodging houses must be at least 150 metres apart. In rental units with four (4) or fewer bedrooms, no more than 40% of the unit's gross floor area can be bedrooms (or no more than 50% in the case of owner-occupied units). Some types of housing are exempt from licensing, such as student residences, apartment buildings and group homes.

1. Name – first and last **(required)**: _____
2. Contact Information **(required)** – phone and/or e-mail:

3. Neighbourhood or address:

4. What age group do you belong to?
☐ 16 – 25 years ☐ 26 – 40 years ☐ 41 – 60 years ☐ 61 years or older

5. Are you currently attending a school, college or university?

- ☐ Yes, full-time
- ☐ Yes, part-time
- ☐ No

6. What kind of housing are you renting now (for example, house, sublet room, apartment in a subdivided house, room in house or lodging house, student residence)?

7. Are any bedrooms shared? ☐ YES ☐ NO

8. How many dependents live with you? _____

If you are looking for, or have just found, market rent housing in Waterloo for the first time (not student dorms or subsidized housing), skip to question # 13

9. Have your rental accommodations had to change because of the new licensing bylaw? For example:

- a. You or another tenant will have to move out because the landlord can't have as many people sharing an apartment or house? ☐ YES ☐ NO
- b. One of the rooms in your rental accommodation can no longer be used as a bedroom? ☐ YES ☐ NO
- c. You or another tenant who share a bedroom now, can't in future? ☐ YES ☐ NO
- d. You will have to move out of your rental accommodation because your landlord can't get a licence? ☐ YES ☐ NO
- e. You risk losing your current housing because you will have to pay more in rent? ☐ YES ☐ NO
- f. Other (please explain) _____

10. Please explain how the changes you identified at question 9, have affected you.

Questions 11-12 are for people looking for, or who just got, new rental housing for the next year:

11. Compared to the last time that you tried to find rental housing, have you noticed that it is more challenging:

- a. For you and a partner, family member or friend to find rental housing where a bedroom can be shared? ☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ N/A
- b. For you to find rental housing in a lodging house (a house with more than 4 bedrooms)? ☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ N/A
- c. For you to find rental housing in a house with 4 bedrooms or less?
☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ N/A
- d. For you to find rental housing close to your school? ☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ N/A
- e. For you to find rental housing in the neighbourhood of your choice?
☐ YES ☐ NO

12. Please explain what factors (cost, availability, etc.) make the tasks you selected at question 11 “challenging”:

13. In your housing search, have you heard from landlords that, in the rental unit you’re looking at (check any that apply):

- ☐ Two people can’t share a room?
- ☐ You can only have up to a certain number of housemates?
- ☐ A room that looks like a bedroom can’t be used as one?
- ☐ Other limitation on how you use the space: _____
- ☐ Anything about the licensing bylaw? Please describe: _____

14. Have you heard any negative comments from neighbours, homeowners or landlords about renters? If so, please describe:

15. Were you aware of the licensing bylaw before you received this survey?

☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ UNSURE

If yes:

- How and when did you hear about it?

- Did you understand how the rental housing bylaw would affect you with respect to housing?

16. Were you aware of the city's consultation process before the licensing bylaw was passed?

☐ YES ☐ NO

- If so, did you take part in the consultation? ☐ YES ☐ NO

- If yes, how and when were you consulted?

17. Do you have any other experiences or thoughts about the licensing bylaw that you would like to share?

18. People who rent housing are protected from discrimination and harassment based on the grounds of the *Human Rights Code* (below). Please check the grounds that apply to you, and provide detail where possible:

☐ **Age:** _____

☐ **Sex** (includes gender identity, pregnancy): _____

☐ **Disability** (including mental health disabilities and/or addictions) ☐ YES ☐ NO

☐ **Receipt of Public Assistance** (including OSAP, OW, ODSP, CPP, OAS):

☐ **Marital Status** (single, married, divorced, common law, separated, etc.):

- ☐ **Family Status** (in a parent-child relationship, such as caring for an elderly parent, being a single parent, etc.): _____
- ☐ **Creed** (or religion): _____
- ☐ **Ancestry** and/or **Ethnic Origin**: (including First Nations, Métis and Inuit): _____
- ☐ **Place of Origin** and/or **Citizenship**: _____
- ☐ **Race** and/or **Colour**: _____
- ☐ **Sexual Orientation**: _____

We may wish to contact you for more information. Please check this box if you DO NOT wish us to do so

☐

Thank you very much for completing this survey

Please return your completed survey by April 15, 2012 to:
Rental Housing Licensing Inquiry
Ontario Human Rights Commission
180 Dundas Street West, 9th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 2R9

This inquiry and survey are authorized under sections 29 and 31 of the *Human Rights Code*. If you have any questions about our collection of information for this survey, please contact Jacquelin Pegg, OHRC Inquiry Analyst, telephone 416-326-9501.

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