



*Building Stronger Communities Together*

 613-731-1182

# CANNABIS

## A GOOD-TO-KNOW GUIDE FOR TENANTS



Can I smoke cannabis?

Home Cultivation

Helpful Resources

Medical Cannabis

[www.och-lco.ca](http://www.och-lco.ca)



OCTOBER 2018

**Effective October 17, 2018,  
consumption of recreational cannabis  
is legal in Ontario.**

**This brochure is a good-to-know  
guide and serves as a reminder of  
your rights and responsibilities as an  
OCH tenant.**

**OCH encourages residents who  
choose to use cannabis to purchase it  
from government-approved sources.**



**Ottawa Community Housing supports  
a smoke-free environment and is  
committed to promoting safe and  
healthy communities and working  
environments.**

## **The Smoke-Free Ontario Act**

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Find out more information online:

**[www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/17c26](http://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/17c26)**

# Smoking Cannabis

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## **Smoking cannabis is not allowed under OCH No-Smoking Policy.**

OCH put a No-Smoking Policy in place in 2014 that does not allow smoking on any OCH properties.

Any tenants who signed a lease **after January 1, 2014**, signed a lease with a no-smoking clause.

- This means tenants and their guests cannot smoke on OCH properties, unless they have a medical prescription (read section on Medical Cannabis) which allows them to smoke inside their home.

Any tenants who signed a lease **before January 1, 2014**, did not have a no-smoking clause.

- This means tenants (who signed before this date) and their guests can smoke in their homes.



All tenants and their guests have a responsibility to make sure that smoking does not interfere with their neighbours' enjoyment of their home.

Excessive smoke and smell can bother other tenants and generate a complaint.

### **Reporting and Complaint Process**

Any tenants can report excessive smoking to **OCH 613-731-1182**.

Complaints will be dealt with on a case by case basis through OCH complaint process.

## Home Cultivation

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The Cannabis Legislation allows residents to have four plants per home (not four plants per person).

While it is legal, there are things to consider if you choose to grow plants:

- Ottawa Fire Services recommends using ULC - rated extension cords or power bars with surge protectors.
- Modifications to your home's plumbing or electrical systems to accommodate growing cannabis will not be approved.
- Plants are allowed in your private rented premises, secured on the balcony or your backyard. Make sure to also secure your outside containers.
- OCH encourages you to research the safest methods to grow cannabis.



If you choose to grow plants, you will be held responsible for any damage such as water, mold, fire damage, etc.

## Helpful Resources

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### **OCH No-Smoking Policy**

[www.och-lco.ca/policies/](http://www.och-lco.ca/policies/)

Ottawa Public Health

### **Dangers of Second-Hand-Smoke**

[www.ottawapublichealth.ca](http://www.ottawapublichealth.ca)

Government of Canada

### **The Cannabis Act**

[www.canada.ca/en/services/health/campaigns/introduction-cannabis-act-questions-answers.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/services/health/campaigns/introduction-cannabis-act-questions-answers.html)

Government of Ontario

### **The Cannabis Legalization**

[www.ontario.ca/page/cannabis-legalization](http://www.ontario.ca/page/cannabis-legalization)

# Medical Cannabis

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Some residents have medical prescriptions to use cannabis. Medical cannabis use is an exemption under the OCH No-Smoking Policy.

However, it's important to remember that cannabis smoke, like cigarettes, can create second-hand-smoke, which has well-documented health hazards and may aggravate certain health conditions.

## Alternative Options to Smoking Cannabis

- There are many forms of cannabis, such as edibles, ointments and oils. Cannabis doesn't have to be smoked, and tenants are encouraged to discuss alternatives with their doctor.

In accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) this brochure is available in an alternate format upon request by contacting [info@och.ca](mailto:info@och.ca).



**Ottawa Community Housing Corp.**

[www.och-lco.ca](http://www.och-lco.ca) | [info@och.ca](mailto:info@och.ca)



 **613-731-1182**