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SEPTEMBER IS SMOKING FIRE SAFETY

This September, the Office of the Fire Commissioner is focused on preventing fires from smoking. Cigarettes and other smoking materials that are not properly extinguished can smoulder undetected for days before bursting into flame. These fires can start when plant pots and other easy-to-ignite materials are used as ashtrays, or cigarette butts are carelessly discarded.

SMOKING

} If you smoke, do it outside.

} Be alert and aware your surroundings when smoking. If you are sleepy, have taken medication

that causes drowsiness, or consumed alcohol, you are at higher risk for starting a smoking-related fire.

} Never smoke in bed.

} Never smoke where medical oxygen is used.

PUT IT OUT

} Always use a deep, non-combustible, sturdy ashtray to extinguish smoking materials.

} Never extinguish smoking material in plant pot. Stub It Right, Don't Ignite.

} Never throw out cigarettes into vegetation, landscaping, peat moss, dried grasses, mulch, leaves, garbage and other similar items, they

can easily catch fire.

} Never discard smoking materials on the ground.

} Make sure matches and cigarette butts in ashtrays are wet before you put them in a garbage container.

STORAGE

} Keep cigarettes, lighters, matches, and other smoking materials up high out of reach of children.

Don't Smoke Your Pot

} Smoking is the leading cause of home fire deaths.

} Never butt out in plant pots.

SMOKE ALARMS AND CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS - SAVE LIVES

They work together to save lives, so please don't turn them off the ceiling or off the wall.

Thank you!



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DOOR TO DOOR IMPOSTERS

The City of Ottawa warns residents to be aware of door-to-door salespeople making false claims about the quality of city

drinking water. These individuals have been known to approach residents to sell water filtration or treatment systems

and provide incorrect information pertaining to water quality.

Ottawa's drinking water

(continued to page 4)

HOUSING ASSISTANCE BEING REVIEWED TO SPEED UP BENEFITS

QUESTION

My sister Mary is 57. She lost her job several years ago due to health issues, and has spent all her savings. All she can find now is part-time work at the minimum wage. She is currently living with various friends. She wants to move in with my wife and me in our apartment (which we rent from a private landlord), but that would be cramped and awkward for everyone involved. Mary cannot afford to rent an apartment on her own. Is there any help she can get from the government, apart from applying to live in social housing?

ANSWER

Mary can investigate applying for social assistance. For an employable person, Ontario's social assistance pays \$706 per month for a single person (which includes a shelter allowance of \$376). She could also keep a very limited part of her earnings each month. That is not enough income to rent an apartment or even a room in Ottawa, and still have money left for food and clothing.

As you note, some people receive subsidized rent-geared-to-income (RGI) housing, often called social housing. However, for the average applicant, the waiting time for social housing in Ottawa is between four

and 10 years. Those who gain access to RGI housing usually get a deep subsidy where they pay only 30 per cent of their income towards rent.

People in crisis or who cannot find housing affordable to them often use the city's emergency shelters as temporary housing. People experiencing homelessness (whether living unsheltered or living in a homeless shelter) are given a special priority on the social housing waiting list, but then they are expected to take the first unit they are offered, wherever that is located in the city.

A new way of dealing with Mary's situation is being considered by the federal government and the province of Ontario. That is to provide a portable housing benefit, which can be used to pay rent in private rental buildings. Portable housing benefits (PHBs) are used for near-seniors (and some families) in Quebec, Manitoba and British Columbia, and have been for decades. Alberta, Saskatchewan and several Ontario cities also use PHBs. The City of Ottawa provides a limited number of POHBs to enable chronic homeless shelters.

Those PHB programs pay a lower subsidy amount than the RGI subsidy, but the PHB is available to people in the eligible groups much more quickly than waiting for access to a social

housing RGI unit. With the PHB, recipients retain choice over where they live. Those who are already housed can stay where they are, or move if they prefer.

A number of anti-poverty groups are urging the federal government to fund a program jointly with the provinces to make housing benefits available to most needy households, regardless of the source of their income. Those on social assistance would still end up with less income after paying their rent than most of those who are working at low pay, since the programs are designed to encourage continued employment or transition to employment.

Most PHB programs pay an amount which varies with the rent a household needs to pay (with a maximum based on what the average rent is in their community). The programs also pay only a portion of any rent so that the recipients have incentive to find affordable housing. Both measures reduce the cost so that more low-income people can receive assistance.

**SOURCE: BY DICKIE & LYMAN
LLP
WHO PRACTICE LANDLORD/
TENANT LAW AND OTHER AREAS
OF LAW**

SAFETY MESSAGES ABOUT

COOKING: Cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and home injuries. The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking. It's important to be alert to

prevent cooking fires.

☞ Be on alert! If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol don't use the stove or stovetop.

☞ Stay in the kitchen while you are

frying, grilling, boiling or broiling food.

☞ Keep anything that can catch fire - oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains - away from your stove.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

Fire Prevention Week runs from October 8 - 14, 2017. This year's theme is "Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out!"

Smoke and fire spread fast. There's no time to figure out how to escape AFTER a fire starts. That's why it is so important that everyone has working smoke alarms in their home and that they practice a home fire escape plan with everyone in their household BEFORE there's a fire.

If a fire occurred in your home tonight would your family get out safely?

A fast, pre-planned escape is critical to survival. There are **no second chances** in a fire.

Follow these simple steps:

- Test your smoke alarms every month!
- Discuss with everyone in your home how each person will get out in a fire. **Practice your plan!**
- Know **two ways** out of each room, if possible.
- Determine who's going to help **young children, older adults, people with disabilities** or anyone else who needs help escaping.
- Have a **meeting place** outside your home.

- Call **9-1-1** of your **emergency number** from outside the home.
- **GET OUT, STAY OUT!** **Never** re-enter a burning building!
- **EVERY SECOND COUNTS!** Fire and smoke can travel so quickly that despite their best efforts, firefighters may not be able to rescue you or your family if a fire occurs in your home. You **need** to be out of your home when the firefighters arrive!

For more information, contact your local fire department.

HOME FIRE SAFETY CHECKLIST

Is Your Home Free Of Hazards?

Check electrical appliances for loose or frayed cords. Do not place wires under rugs.

Check for outlets overloaded with plugs; including TV, computer, stereo, and printer.

Install GFCI (ground fault circuit interrupter) outlets in your home; especially near sources of water like your bathroom, kitchen and laundry room.

Use the correct bulb wattage for home fixtures.

If any appliances spark, smell unusual or overheat, replace or get repaired by a professional.

Lamps and nightlights should not touch any fabrics (bedspreads, drapes).

Electrical blankets are unplugged when not in use. Check for frayed or loose cords and any odd smell. If a problem is detected, replace.

Supervise children around the stove and microwave.

Candles should be out of reach of children and pets, curtains and furniture. Never leave candles unattended.

Annual inspection of furnace or heating system.

Space Heaters

Keep out of walking paths.

Keep away from children and pets.

Place away from beds.

Newspapers, magazines, and fabrics, including curtains, sheets, tablecloths, are not within 3 feet of a space

heater.

Unplug when not in use.

In The Kitchen

Keep an eye on appliances when in use.

Make sure appliances are turned off and unplugged when not in use.

When using pots and pans, use the rear burners and turn the handles inwards.

Do not wear loose clothing while cooking.

Fireplaces (if applicable)

Keep the fire place clean. Cover your fireplace with a screen.

Have your chimney cleaned professionally once a year.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Easy Shepherd's Pie Mash

1 lb. Ground beef
2 cups Green Giant mixed vegetables
1/2 cup Beef broth
1 tsp Worcestershire sauce
1 (20 oz) package green giant Olive oil & Sea Salt Mashed Cauliflower, cooked according to package

Brown ground beef in large skillet and drain. Add vegetables, broth and Worcestershire sauce and simmer 10 minutes or until hot.

2 Serve beef mixture over hot Green Giant original with Olive Oil & Sea Salt Mashed Cauliflower.

This deconstructed Shepherd's Pie tastes just as delicious as the real thing, but it's ready to eat in less than 30 minutes. Serve the ground beef mixture over Mashed Cauliflower rather than baking it on top. Creamy cauliflower delivers on flavor with delivering all of the carbs.

JOKE CORNER

(Q) Why was six scared of seven?

(A) Because seven "ate" nine.

(Q) How do you count cows?

(A) With a cowculator.

(Q) What starts with E, ends with E, and has only 1 letter in it?

(A) Envelope.

(Q) How do astronomers organize a party?

(A) They planet.

(Q) What do computers eat for a snack?

(A) Microchips!

A man got hit in the head with a can of Coke, but he was alright because it was a soft drink.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

WILL YOU BE READY IF DISASTER STRIKES?

National Preparedness Month, held annually in September and sponsored by the [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#), reminds us that we need to be ready to respond to natural and man-made disasters - no matter where we live. Disaster can strike at any time, so it's important to have a planned response when you're at work, on vacation or on the road.

The National Safety Council offers some safety tips specific to each of the following emergencies:

📖 Earthquake - Flood

📖 Hurricane - Tornado

Federal agencies, like [Ready.gov](#), [the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#) and the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), also are valuable resources for emergency preparedness.

When you face a natural or man-made emergency, try to stay in-

formed through radio, TV or the Internet. In some cases, however, cable, electric and cell phone service will be disabled, making communication nearly impossible. The National Safety Council recommends the following general precautions that apply to many disaster situations:

📖 Make sure to have a [family communication plan](#) in place; all members of the family should review and practice the plan

📖 Have all family members' and other important phone numbers written down or memorized

📖 Have an [emergency kit in your car](#) and at least [three days of food and water at home](#)

📖 Be sure to store all important documents - birth certificates, insurance policies, etc. - in a fire proof safe or safety deposit box

📖 Assign one family member the responsibility of learning first aid and CPR

📖 Know how to shut off utilities.

DOOR TO DOOR IMPOSTERS

has been rated by the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) as being among the safest in the world.

The City has an extensive drinking water quality analysis program.

Residents are reminded that:

- City employees do not contact residents to sell products or services

- Except for emergency situations, home access is scheduled in advance

- City employees carry identification at all times – you have the right to ask for ID

- City employees always travel in City of Ottawa logo-identified marked vehicles

Should you have concerns or wish to report suspicious visits or calls, please contact 3-1-1

***City Employees always travel in City of Ottawa logo - identified marked vehicles.**