

Bill 128: Hot Days, Cool Homes Act

Community Briefing Note

What our bill does:

- ➔ Adds cooling to the definition of "vital services" that a landlord must provide their tenants under the Residential Tenancies Act.
- ➔ Requires that rooms intended for tenants to live in be kept at a maximum indoor temperature of 26°C between June 1st and September 30th.

Why is it needed:

- ➔ Climate change is making our summers warmer, causing longer and hotter heatwaves.
- ➔ Heat-related deaths and illnesses are on the rise – there were more than 600 recorded deaths caused by exposure to extreme heat across Canada between 2016 and 2022.
- ➔ Many tenants, particularly low-income renters, seniors, and people living with disabilities, are vulnerable during heat waves.
- ➔ Ontario currently treats heat as a vital service, but does not provide equivalent province-wide protection from excessive indoor temperatures.
- ➔ Ontario recently changed regulations to give tenants the right to install air conditioners in their own units, but many marginalized tenants cannot afford the cost themselves
- ➔ Municipalities across the province are implementing their own local maximum temperature by-laws; creating a patchwork system that protects some renters, but ignores others

Links and resources:

- ➔ <https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-44/session-1/bill-128>
- ➔ <https://ottawacitizen.com/news/home-heat-dangers-mckenney-bill>
- ➔ <https://ottawacitizen.com/opinion/ottawa-tackle-heat-deaths>
- ➔ <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/toronto-hot-apartments-air-conditioning-9.7216525>
- ➔ <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/new-westminster-bc-maximum-heat-by-law-9.7150150>

