



# Looking For a Place To Live?

## Ask These Questions!

**Number #1 Question To Ask: Is this apartment legal?**

**Was a building permit issued for this dwelling unit?**

**How many people are being rented to?**

### **LIFE SAFETY**

1. Are there working smoke alarms outside of each bedroom and on each storey?
2. Are there rules about candles? *Never leave candles unattended.*
3. Are there hot plates and microwaves allowed in the rooms? *Hot plates and microwaves should not be allowed in rooms.*
4. Does the landlord have a Home Escape Plan posted?
5. Are the windows in the bedrooms large enough to get out of in the event of an emergency?
6. Is the general condition of the house acceptable? *It is not acceptable if there are holes in the walls, broken doors, or doors that don't close properly.*
7. Where are the fire extinguishers?

### **HOUSEKEEPING**

1. Can I have a BBQ?
2. Is smoking allowed?
3. When is garbage day?
4. Where do I get my mail?
5. Am I allowed to have pets?
6. Does the landlord supply garbage tags?
7. Who looks after snow removal and grass cutting?
8. Are the locks changed when someone moves out?
9. Is there storage space for extra furniture, boxes, bikes, etc.?
10. Are there laundry facilities on-site? Where is the closest Laundromat?
11. Is the landlord responsible for cleaning the unit before and after I move?

### **BUILDING SAFETY**

1. Is the parking area lit?
2. How is the unit heated?
3. Are the walls insulated?
4. Has there ever been a flood in this basement apartment?
5. Is there exterior lighting of the doorways?

### **PARKING & PUBLIC TRANSIT**

1. Where is the closest bus stop?
2. Do I have to transfer buses to get to school?
3. Is there on-site parking? How many spaces? How will the spaces be allocated among the tenants?
4. Is on-street parking allowed? What are the restrictions?
5. Where is the closest grocery store?

### **LEASE & INSURANCE**

1. Am I required to sign a lease? What is the length of the lease? (i.e. 1 year, 8 months, 4 months)
2. Are utilities, cable and internet included in the rent? Is parking extra?
3. How do I get out of my lease? Are there any penalties for doing so?
4. Do I need Tenant's Insurance?
5. Can I sublet my room?
6. How do I pay my rent?