



Re. Item EX28.3 – Maximum Indoor Temperature Bylaw & Mayor Chow's Amendment

Executive Committee
9th, 2025
City of Toronto
100 Queen St W
Toronto ON M5H 2N2

December

Dear Mayor and Members of the Executive Committee,

We are writing as co-chairs of the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE) Ontario Regional Committee to urge you to support Mayor Olivia Chow's amendment directing staff to bring forward a Maximum Indoor Temperature Bylaw by July 2026, including provisions to prevent above-guideline rent increases. This amendment reflects the urgency of the climate and public health crisis facing Toronto tenants.

Extreme heat is Toronto's deadliest weather-related hazard. The extended heatwaves experienced each summer will continue to occur with worsening frequency and severity. With each heatwave, the health impacts experienced by people who present to clinics and hospitals are significant. Each heatwave a person is exposed to without respite worsens cardiovascular disease, diabetes, asthma, and mental-health conditions, and disproportionately harms low-income and racialized tenants, seniors, people with disabilities, pregnant people and young children, the same groups who are most likely to live in older rental buildings that trap heat. As fossil-fuel-driven climate change accelerates, Toronto is already experiencing a sharp rise in dangerous heat days, with 2025 seeing twice the number of days above 32 °C compared to the previous year.

Still, one year after Council directed staff to develop this bylaw, no draft has been produced. Further delay leaves thousands of tenants exposed to preventable illness and death. A **26 °C maximum indoor temperature standard**, paired with robust tenant protections, is an essential and evidence-based public health intervention that aligns with recommendations from health experts, legal advocates, and community organizations across the province.



We urge you to adopt the Mayor's amendment and ensure the City moves forward with **a maximum heat bylaw without further delay**. Toronto must act now to protect residents' health, advance climate resilience, and uphold equity. Please help us protect our patients from extreme heat.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mili Roy and Dr. Sehjal Bhargav, Co-chairs of CAPE Ontario Regional Committee

Dr Samantha Green, President of CAPE