

From: [Kesi Disha](#)
To: [Executive Committee](#)
Subject: [External Sender] ITEM 31.2 for Executive Committee Meeting - Standardizing the Air Conditioner Benefit
Date: May 12, 2026 8:57:15 AM
Attachments: [REVISED-BRIEFING-NOTE-Maximum-Heat-Bylaw-April-2026.pdf](#)

Dear Cathrine Regan,

Please see attached a briefing note from the Canadian Environmental Law Association in regards to item number 31.2 Standardizing the Air Conditioner Benefit, of the Executive Committee meeting today.

Our counsel, Jacqueline Wilson, will be speaking in person on this item today as well. This briefing note should be considered in relation to her deputation.

Thank you,

Kesi Disha (she/her/elle)
Legal Assistant and Information Coordinator/Adjointe juridique et coordinatrice d'information

Canadian Environmental Law Association/Association canadienne du droit de l'environnement
55 University Avenue, Suite 1500, Toronto, ON M5J 2H7
Tel/tél 416-960-2284 Ext/poste 7211
Toll-Free/sans frais 1-844-755-1420
Fax/télécopieur 416-960-9392
kesi@cela.ca www.cela.ca
facebook.com/CanadianEnvironmentalLawAssociation

Subscribe to the [CELA Bulletin](#) / Abonnez-vous au bulletin de l'ACDE (disponible en anglais seulement)

Please note that CELA is a scent/fragrance-reduced environment. We ask that everyone avoid using any chemical-based scented products when visiting our offices.

Notre coopérative est un environnement à parfum réduit. Nous demandons à chacun(e) d'éviter d'utiliser des produits parfumés à base de produits chimiques lors d'une visite dans nos bureaux.

DISCLAIMER:

Confidentiality Note: This message may be subject to solicitor-client privilege. If you have received this message in error, please let me know by reply email, and delete your copy. Thank you.

Confidentialité: Ce message peut être soumis au privilège des communications entre client et avocat. Si vous avez reçu ce message par erreur, veuillez en informer l'expéditeur. Veuillez également supprimer ce courriel. Merci.

BRIEFING NOTE: TORONTO MUST IMPLEMENT A MAXIMUM HEAT BY-LAW TO PROTECT TENANTS FROM EXTREME INDOOR TEMPERATURES

OBJECTIVE:

Toronto is experiencing increasingly severe extreme heat events, leaving many tenants unprotected from dangerous indoor temperatures. Without a maximum heat by-law, tenants, especially those most vulnerable, face serious health risks, including illness and death. While Council has already endorsed a framework recognizing the need for action, immediate implementation of a 26°C maximum indoor temperature standard is necessary to protect public health and ensure safe housing conditions.



Photo credit: Adobe iStock @lamyai

BRIEFING NOTE: TORONTO MUST IMPLEMENT A MAXIMUM HEAT BY-LAW TO PROTECT TENANTS FROM EXTREME INDOOR TEMPERATURES

BACKGROUND AND ISSUE SUMMARY:

Extreme heat is a growing public health emergency, with Toronto experiencing one of its hottest summers on record in 2025, including multiple heat waves. Prolonged exposure to high indoor temperatures can lead to serious health impacts, including cardiovascular and respiratory illness, dehydration, and even risk of death, especially for at risk populations such as seniors, people with disabilities, and low-income residents.

The **2021 British Columbia Heat Dome, which resulted in 619 deaths** (mostly indoors) demonstrates the consequences of inadequate cooling. Despite this, Toronto currently lacks a maximum indoor temperature standard for rental housing, leaving tenants vulnerable. While City Council endorsed a framework in December 2024 (PH17.5) supporting a 26°C maximum indoor temperature standard, we urge the City to ensure a maximum heat standard is implemented by summer 2026 to protect tenants from extreme heat. Existing programs and policies such as cooling centres and subsidy programs are inadequate.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Toronto City Council must urgently pass a by-law setting a **maximum indoor temperature standard of 26°C in all rental units** to protect tenants from the serious and potentially fatal health impacts of extreme heat.

The City must also ensure this by-law includes **strong tenant protections** so tenants not forced to bear the burden of these environmental upgrades.

Immediate action is required. Delays will continue to place the most vulnerable residents at risk of preventable harm and death.

For questions, please contact: jacqueline@cela.ca