

THE OC LINK

OFF CAMPUS LIVING NEWS FOR FANSHAWE COLLEGE STUDENTS SEPTEMBER 2021

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Welcome to Life Off-Campus!

Living off-campus for the first time is an exciting experience, but there is a lot to take into consideration. Most importantly, it is crucial to know whether or not you are covered under Ontario rental law, also known as the Residential Tenancies Act or RTA. The provincial government set out certain rights for tenants when you do not share the kitchen and/or bathroom with your landlord or their immediate family (Eg. Their child). Additionally, tenants should take several time-stamped images of all your rented rooms and appliances. This way, you have documentation of any damage that was there prior to your tenancy, so you won't be held responsible for them!

When moving into a rental with housemates, be sure to have an open and honest conversation with your group regarding your expectations for the year. Some topics to cover in this kind of conversation include chores, "quiet hours", and guest policies. Remember that even the best of friends can encounter conflicts when living together. You may want to use our Roommate Agreement Form as a guide:

<https://www.fanshawec.ca/roommate> (PDF).

To support you with these, and other aspects of living off-campus, you can find out more on Fanshawe's Off-Campus Housing Services website: <https://www.fanshawec.ca/housing>.

All About Bylaws: London Edition

The City of London has several bylaws that may be unfamiliar to students living off-campus. This includes regulations about garbage, property maintenance, parking, and noise. Here is a list of local bylaws you should keep in mind during your off-campus living experience.

Garbage

London has an eight-day garbage pickup schedule, meaning that the day of pickup changes every week. Garbage and recycling should be put out to the curb between 6:00 p.m. the night before collection and 7:00 a.m. the day of collection. There is a three container limit (with exemptions on certain days) for garbage, and an unlimited amount of recycling allowed to be placed at the curb.

Tip: Download the “Recycle Coach” app to easily remember your garbage day:

<https://recyclecoach.com/>.

Property upkeep

Indoor furniture should not be kept outside, and the lawn should be free from any junk or litter. As well, grass must be kept shorter than eight inches and snow is to be shoveled off sidewalks in the colder months.

Tip: Check your lease to see who is responsible for lawn maintenance!

Parking

It is illegal to park in various places in London, including: on the front lawn, over the sidewalk, between the curb and the sidewalk, between the sidewalk and the street line, and on specific streets between 3:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. every day.

Tip: View all the specific bylaws regarding parking in order to avoid a fine:

<https://london.ca/by-laws/5121>.

Noise

There is a 24/7 noise bylaw in effect for London. All tenants can be charged for noise violations, with fines ranging from \$200-\$5,000.

To learn more about bylaws in the City of London click here: <https://london.ca/by-laws>.

Fire Safety Tips

Now that everyone is all settled in to their off-campus rentals, here are four fire safety tips that you should practice to ensure the safety of you, those you live with, and your home:

1. Upon moving in, check your building for smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and fire alarms. Note their location and whether or not they are working.
2. Plan a potential escape route with your roommates in case of a fire.

3. Keep open flames like candles away from fabric such as curtains, clothing and bedding and ensure that the wick is trimmed to 5mm.

4. Unplug any appliances from electric outlets like hot irons, kitchen appliances and computer monitors to minimize the chance of electric fires.

Keeping consistent with these activities and making them into habits can save your life. Or at the very least tens of thousands of dollars in losses and damages!

COVID-19 Assessment Centres

If you feel you may be experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or meet any of the requirements for needing a COVID-19 test, please visit one of London's local test centres, get tested and then immediately self-isolate while you wait for the results.

Fanshawe College students can schedule a COVID-19 test on campus. Visit the Health Services website for more information: <https://www.fanshawec.ca/health-services>.

Assessment Centres in London

Click here for current information about London's COVID-19 Assessment Centres: <https://www.healthunit.com/covid-19-concerns>

Reporting a COVID-19 Order Violation

If you have concerns about COVID-19 order violations in the City of London, please email the City at COVIDOrderConcerns@london.ca (email monitored 24/7) or call 519-661-4660 (phone line monitored Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.).

If you have questions about COVID-19, please contact the Middlesex-London Health Unit.

COVID-19 Hot Line: 519-663-5317 and press "1"

(Monday to Sunday from 8:30AM to 7:00PM)

Email: covid@mlhu.on.ca

Fanshawe College Housing Mediation Service-Counselling and Accessibility Services

Office: Room F2010

Phone: 519-452-4282

Email: housing.mediation@fanshawec.ca

Website: www.fanshawec.ca/housing

OR

Monday to Friday: 519-661-3787