



July 22, 2025

Re: Tenant Association Update

Dear Residents,

Further to our letter dated July 17th, we are pleased to share that the response to the formation of the **Southwest One Tenants' Association** has been overwhelmingly positive. Over the past week, we've received numerous questions and enthusiastic messages of support from fellow residents who are eager to get involved.

We're encouraged by this level of engagement and excited to work together to strengthen our community through open dialogue and collective action.

The following are some questions that have been asked.

1. What is a Tenants' Association?

A tenants' association is simply a group of tenants united to address issues that affect them as renters. It does not need to be incorporated or follow a specific structure—each building or community can decide how formal or informal their group will be.

A tenants' association can focus on any matter its members consider important. These may include:

- Providing information to other tenants
- Addressing legal issues or cases before the **Ontario Landlord and Tenant Board**
- Improving maintenance and security
- Organizing social or community events
- Taking on broader neighbourhood issues such as development, traffic, or public transit

The core principle is simple: **tenants are stronger and more effective when they work together**

2. Why Organize?

- Fighting unjustified rent increases
- Improving maintenance and repair response

- Preventing harassment or intimidation
- Supporting one another with shared resources or services
- Creating a stronger community through mutual aid and events

Many tenants feel they lack the individual power or resources to challenge our Landlord, Sifton Properties Ltd., but **together, we have a stronger voice and greater capacity to make change. We also DO NOT require permission from the Landlord to organize.**

3. Concerns about your rights - Your Legal Right to Organize

We understand that some tenants may hesitate to get involved out of fear of retaliation. It's important to know that **tenants have a legal right to organize.**

In fact, it is an offence under **Section 233 of the Residential Tenancies Act** for a landlord or property manager to interfere with this right. Section 233 of the Residential Tenancies Act reads:

Offences

233. A person is guilty of an offence if the person knowingly:

(h) harasses, hinders, obstructs or interferes with a tenant in the exercise of,

(i) securing a right or seeking relief under this Act or in a court,

(ii) participating in a proceeding under this Act, or

(iii) participating in a tenants' association or attempting to organize a tenants' association;

You can review the full legislation by going to: www.e-laws.gov.on.ca

In Closing

We thank all residents who have already expressed interest and support. We will be in touch shortly with details about our first community meeting. Let's work together to make our voices heard and improve our community. If you are interested in attending to learn more, please RSVP at info@sw1ta.org or contact one of the executive to confirm your attendance. We will also be taking payment \$15 cash or cheque for those wishing to become members.

Thank you on behalf of the Executive Committee. We look forward to seeing you August 7th!

Anthony MacFarlane (Unit 39)

Brenda Pineo (Unit 25)

Leighanne Buckingham (Unit 73)

Martin McGrenere (Unit 39)

Paulette Elie (Unit 87)