

# Reducing incidents of domestic violence

Are you OK?

Landlords, property managers, and other on-site staff can play significant roles in reducing incidents of domestic violence. Would some of these examples work for you?

- **Reduce isolation.** One of the factors that contributes to domestic violence is the isolation of victims. Anything you can do to create a sense of community among your tenants or link them to the broader community will help.
- **Promote healthy relationships.** If your tenants know you care about them, they are more likely to let you know if something is going wrong in their family.
  - Start with your relationship with other staff members. If you treat each other with respect, your tenants will be more likely to expect you to treat them with respect.
  - Get to know your tenants. When you deal with tenant issues, model respectful communication and productive problem solving skills.
- **Build a sense of community.** Tenants who care about each other are more likely to let you know if something is going wrong in another unit.
  - Help your tenants get to know each other. Create and take advantage of tenant gathering places – the mail room, laundry room, sports area. Put up a tenant bulletin board for you or them to post announcements, brochures of community events and services, or activities of interest.
  - Organize events. Ask your tenants for suggestions. A film night? Walking club? Mother's group?

- 
- Create a tenant newsletter. Ask for content from tenants.
  - **Connect with the local neighbourhood and broader community.** The more you and your tenants know about the resources available in the community, the more likely you and they are to use them.
    - Join networks of service providers. Get their newsletters. Attend interagency meetings.
    - Invite service agencies to staff or tenant events to learn more about their services.
    - Post brochures
    - Buy your tenants memberships in the local community or recreational service.
    - Develop positive relationships with police.