

## Provincial Air Quality Standards Needed for Mold-Affected Homes

*Illegal Drug Operations Place Albertans and Their Properties at Risk*



### No Provincial Mold or Air Quality Standards in Place

There are no consistent air quality assessment and remediation standards in place for properties previously used as marijuana grow-ops or other drug operations, or for properties which have been negatively affected by other chemical contaminants, environmental hazards or natural disasters.

*Differing Standards:* Currently, Alberta municipalities may allow a property to be re-inhabited when local standards are met. However, the conditions under which a local authority grants re-habitation differ from community to community. Universal standards for the province of Alberta are needed.

*No Consumer Protection:* The potential exists for a property to become 'sick' after re-habitation. There are currently no provisions in place provincially to protect the consumer should this situation arise.

*No Guidelines for Properties that Fail Local Review:* There are no guidelines in place to handle properties that cannot be remediated to the satisfaction of local authorities.

### Alberta REALTORS® Position

The province, on its own, or in conjunction with the federal authorities, needs to play a leadership role to establish universal remediation standards for Alberta by:

- Amending building and health codes to create minimum acceptable remediation standards that will assure Albertans that properties previously used as illegal drug operations are safe for habitation.
- Establishing provisions to protect the consumer in the event a property becomes 'sick' after re-habitation.
- Establishing guidelines for properties that fail remediation standards so that properties that cannot be remediated to the satisfaction of the local authorities are dealt with appropriately.

### Alberta REALTORS® Take Action

On behalf of Alberta REALTORS®, AREA commissioned local indoor air quality experts Tang G. Lee and Karen Rollins to develop a report that outlines how provincial standards could be implemented for the assessment and rehabilitation of properties seized due to illicit drug operations. The report, Recommendations for the Assessment and Remediation of Properties Used as Illegal Drug Operations, continues to be shared by REALTORS® and AREA representatives with government and industry stakeholders for endorsement.

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**The Alberta Real Estate Association (AREA) represents the interests of 10 Real Estate Boards, more than 10,000 licensed REALTORS® and the consumers they serve.**