

Often, I simply can't open windows, due to wood smoke permeating the neighbourhood, despite a doctor recommending that I constantly keep window(s) open to get fresh air into my home, all year 'round. Without opening windows, the air quickly becomes stale and it is difficult to breathe. So because I always have a window or windows open somewhere in my house, I can be downstairs, only to go upstairs and find out that smoke has filled the upstairs. Then my only option, is to close the window(s) to avoid more smoke, and I have to go for many hours or overnight, feeling as though I am in a gas chamber. Please try to imagine what that might feel like. It is very upsetting. I know the smoke is further impairing my health and I am totally unable to do anything about it.

Since one never knows where or when someone is burning wood, it means that I am unable to do even routine property maintenance (1/2 acre requires a lot of work pruning, trimming, weeding, lawn work). I can't sit out in my own back yard or work in my gardens because of smoke, not just from my immediate neighbours, but neighbours up to a km or two away. My garden vegetables and numerous kinds of berries and fruit become contaminated with heavy metals and chemical toxins from wood smoke that can't simply be washed off.

I often get bombarded by wood smoke on exercise walks as I'm trying to get fresh air in the neighbourhood or even driving through the city. The smoke covers a large area so I have no control over inhaling it when I'm in the thick of it. People in all parts of the city are doing this so there is no where a person can move to find clean air.