



March 27, 2020

To representatives of:

The Government of Canada
The Province of Ontario
The City of Toronto

We are writing to you with urgent concerns about the vulnerability of tenants during the COVID-19 crisis. Many tenants have been laid off during this time. Many more, lacking benefits, have seen deep cuts in their pay as they miss work due to self-isolation or quarantine. Others have watched their paycheques disappear as their companies sit idle.

While we commend the government for suspending evictions, the gap for these vulnerable tenants requires further action. The income lost during this emergency isn't coming back. There is food to buy and basic bills to cover. The situation is increasingly precarious—and rent is due April 1st.

Tenants need your assistance, and they need it urgently.

In addition to financial assistance, we also require your help to ensure safe living conditions for tenants in the coming weeks. Landlords continue to perform non-urgent renovations and construction work in many buildings. This has severely compromised living conditions for tenants who must remain at home while this work is performed. The situation is exceedingly difficult for tenants who must care for children or work from home during construction hours.

What's more, landlords are not currently required to inform tenants when there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 on site. As a result, tenants are not alerted that they may have been exposed to the virus and that the virus may be active on surfaces within their building. Tenants need this information to protect their own health and help prevent further spread of the virus.

We call on you to take the next step in protecting tenants and supporting public health objectives. We urge you to enact legislation that will:

- Defer residential rent payments in the province of Ontario on April 1, 2020.
- Provide the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation with a new Rent Relief pool of capital targeted for existing or new rent banks across the country so that those tenants that can not afford their rent during the COVID-19 crisis can receive interest-free repayable loans.
- Suspend all non-essential construction work in multi-unit residential buildings while social distancing recommendations remain in effect.

- Require landlords to post notices in lobbies of multi-unit residential buildings alerting tenants to positive cases of COVID-19 on site.

We also invite you to publicly support our letter to Akelius Canada, Ltd., which calls for immediate steps that Akelius and other corporate landlords can take to protect tenants during this crisis. You will find our letter attached to this message.

Thank you

The Akelius Tenants Network