

National Call to Ban Evictions and Provide Renter Support



On March 23rd, the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA) released a report entitled *The Rent Is Due Soon: Financial Insecurity and COVID-19*. The report highlights the urgent need for policies that support renters: 46% of tenants have less than a month's income saved, and, within that group 42% have less than two weeks worth of savings, and another 24% have less than one week's worth of savings.

For the 3.4 million Canadian households who rent, the COVID-19 crisis has been devastating. Many have seen their incomes wiped out and are now scrambling to feed their families and pay their bills. New job losses, layoffs and business closures are announced daily. The risk of eviction and financial hardship is escalating and needs to be immediately addressed.

This is a coast-to-coast issue, with impacts felt in both rural and urban areas. This is why a coalition of tenant groups, with a combined membership of over 200,000 renters across Canada, have joined together to call for an immediate ban on all residential evictions and immediate financial assistance for all renters.

Ontario, Nova Scotia, and Quebec have announced a moratorium on evictions, while British Columbia has announced a partial moratorium that applies only to government-owned housing. These moratoriums need to be extended to every Province and Territory and to every type of housing as both a safeguard against the spread of the pandemic, and to protect the human right to housing by ensuring that renters are not being thrown into the streets in this time of unprecedented international crisis.

In addition, at minimum tenants need immediate cash assistance to maintain their finances and to provide stimulus to the overall economy. Billions have been earmarked for business and mortgages. However, nothing has been specifically set aside for the millions of tenants across the country who help drive the consumer economy. Money needs to be made available quickly and it needs to be put directly in the hands of tenants.

We urge all governments – Provincial, Territorial and Federal – to act fast. People's lives and the health of the public are at stake. We also urge tenants and individuals to add their names in support of our campaign.

Signed,



Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN) Canada



Front d'action populaire réaménagement urbain (FRAPRU)



Regroupement des comités logement et associations de locataires du Québec (RCLALQ)



Vancouver Tenants Union (VTU)



Victoria Tenants Action Group (VTAG)



Federation of Metro Tenants' Associations (FMTA)

Campaigns

FRAPRU

www.change.org/p/fran%C3%A7ois-legault-moratoire-sur-les-%C3%A9victions-des-locataires-dans-le-contexte-de-la-covid-19?utm_source=grow_ca&utm_campaign=pss

ACORN Canada

acorncanada.org/take-action/urgent-action-rent-freeze-suspension-of-rent-end-nsf-fees-internet-all

VTU

www.vancouvertenantsunion.ca/bcrentcrisis

FMTA

www.torontotenants.org/covid



Media contacts



Alejandra Ruiz-Vargas
1-416-996-6401



Maxime Roy-Allard
1-514-386-2878



David Hendry
1-604-780-5705



Ben Baird
1-778-350-8840



Rob Field
1-416-527-1373