



## Official Opposition • L'opposition officielle

Ontario NDP Caucus • Groupe parlementaire du NPD de l'Ontario

Hon. Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building  
Queen's Park Toronto  
ON M7A 1A1

June 24, 2020

Premier Ford,

We are writing to you today to share our collective concerns regarding Bill 184, the Protecting Tenants and Strengthening Community Housing Act. During this pandemic and beyond, we must ensure tenants are protected from illegal evictions and unfair rent increases, and given fair hearings at the Landlord and Tenant Board.

While nearly half of Ontario renters pay unaffordable housing costs, the City of Toronto is facing a housing emergency. Housing unaffordability impacts 87% of Toronto renters and with more than 100,000 households currently waiting to access social housing, the city's housing support system is bursting at the seams. Further still, millions of Ontarians are experiencing a loss of income due to COVID-19, making more renters than ever at risk of losing their homes.

While no new eviction orders may be issued in Ontario at this time, landlords are still permitted to give eviction notices and raise rents. When the Landlord and Tenant Board resumes hearings, Bill 184 will fast-track evictions by making it easier for landlords to evict tenants, introduce illegal rent increases, and deny fair hearings for tenants.

Desperate tenants have contacted constituency offices during the emergency and are fearful of losing their homes. There is a looming eviction crisis, and instead of protecting tenants who were unable to pay rent through no fault of their own, Bill 184 will make it easier for landlords to evict tenants for rent arrears.

Premier, without urgent action, the City of Toronto's ongoing housing crisis will escalate into an emergency. We are calling on you to immediately provide the following support for tenants:

- A ban on pandemic-related evictions and a freeze on rent increases
- A rent subsidy for those who have lost income due to the pandemic
- Real rent control and a stop on landlords squeezing out existing tenants so they can raise the rent
- Protection from illegal evictions through fair hearings, bringing in real fines for landlords who illegally evict, and proper enforcement of the law

Housing is a human right. In the midst of a pandemic, our Legislature must ensure the people of Ontario are safely housed.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

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**Ontario NDP Caucus Services**

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