



# VANCOUVER and DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL



February 19, 2020

Mayor and Councillors  
City of Vancouver  
Via Email

Dear Mayor Stewart and Councillors,

**RE: Fix Vancouver's Renter Protections**

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I am writing you today on behalf of the Vancouver and District Labour Council, representing approximately 60,000 unionized public and private sector workers in Vancouver and surrounding municipalities.

As you are likely aware, housing affordability continues to be a major and growing concern for working people in the Metro Vancouver region. For some, affordability exists only thanks to long-term tenancy in their current suites, and the limits in place for regular rent increases. We have heard from members of our affiliates, delegates, and at least one member of our Executive Board, about housing insecurity caused by the practice of renovictions and demovictions. These stories are expected to continue as the city rapidly develops and densifies.

As I am sure you are aware, the City of Burnaby recently adopted renter protections which have been hailed as the strongest in the region, and possibly in the country. At a meeting of our newly formed Housing Action Team, these measures were discussed and a recommendation was forwarded to our Executive Board that we join the call of the Vancouver Tenants Union for these measures to be implemented in the City of Vancouver as well.

The recommendation calling upon the City of Vancouver to implement stronger renter protections in line with those adopted by the City of Burnaby was subsequently adopted by our regular meeting on February 18, 2020. The protections in question include:

- Improved right of first refusal wherein tenants would be given first right of refusal to new or renovated suites at the same rent, as opposed to at 20% of market rent as is presently in place; and
- Improved tenant compensation wherein tenants are provided a rent “top up” until a new unit is created in the same neighbourhood, as opposed to a one-time pay out based upon tenure (between 4-24 months’ rent).

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Re: Fix Vancouver's Renter Protections

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We hope that you will take action to adopt these protections as soon as possible. We consider it an urgent necessity to stem the tide of working people forced to move from the city due to unaffordable housing costs through the construction of new affordable units and the protection of existing ones. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Yours truly,



Stephen von Sychowski  
President, VDLC

CC: VDLC Executive Board

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