



Important Notice for Renters

It can be challenging for renters to know all that they need to know about the BC Residential Tenancy Act. It can also be intimidating to stand up for yourself against an aggressive landlord. If you are unsure of your rights and obligations as a renter, or need help navigating a concern related to your rental agreement, you can learn more by contacting one of the following resources:

- **BC Residential Tenancy Branch:** 604-660-1020 www.rto.gov.bc.ca
- **Tenants Resource and Advisory Centre:** 604-255-3099 www.tenants.bc.ca
- **My office** at 5-221 W Esplanade Ave, 604-981-0033 Bowinn.Ma.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Our government continues its work to improve the Residential Tenancy Act and rental housing market and my office is here to help. Please contact me if you have any questions, suggestions or issues you believe I should be aware of.

Rent Increases

Unless agreed to in writing by the tenant or ordered by the Residential Tenancy Branch through a hearing process, your rent increase should be:

- 1) On an approved form (#RTB-7);
- 2) Delivered with 3 full months' notice;
- 3) Not within 12 months since the last rent increase; and
- 4) Not more than the rate of inflation (2.5% for 2019).

Because it is possible for tenants to sign away Residential Tenancy Act protections against large rent increases or protections against unlawful evictions, it is important that you **never sign something you don't understand: Seek advice first.**

Rent increases and eviction notices that are legally imposed by the landlord do not require a tenant's signature, so renters with existing tenancy arrangements should be cautious when being asked to sign something new.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is aware of and looking into the use of a blanket clause in some Residential Tenancy Agreements that state a mutual agreement by landlord and tenant to annual rent increases of up to inflation + above. Please contact us at your MLA's Community Office if you have signed an agreement with this clause to receive relevant updates. Your communications with us are confidential.

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604 - 981 - 0033


COMMUNITY OFFICE
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