

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.

Key Tips for You:

- **Never sign something you don't understand: Seek advice first.** It is possible for tenants to unknowingly sign away protections against large rent increases or against unlawful eviction. Legal rent increases and eviction notices do not require a tenant's signature.
- Have an issue with your suite? Need a repair? **Communications with the landlord should be in writing and dated.** Keep a copy for your records. This will help if conflict or disagreements arise down the road.
- **Lawful rent increases will always** be: (1) On an approved form (#RTB-7); (2) Delivered with 3 full months' notice; and (3) be no more than the rate of inflation (2.5% for 2019).
- **Evictions must be done in good faith.** There are a limited number of lawful reasons for eviction, and landlords must be truthful about why they are evicting a tenant to use them. An arbitrator may declare the eviction notice null and void if the landlord is not acting in good faith. Seek advice **immediately** if you find yourself in this situation.

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COMMUNITY OFFICE
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