

## **Important information for citizens regarding rent during the Covid-19 state of emergency.**

Important information regarding rent for Yuuŭu?iŭ?ath citizens, your nation is currently monitoring the pandemic with our partner agencies, with this we are watching for resources which may assist our citizens in the difficult period in time.

Some of the resources made available so far are:

### **Through BC Housing:**

Available to any citizen residing in British Columbia who meets the eligibility of each program.

- **Rental Assistance Program**
  - The Rental Assistance Program provides eligible low-income, working families with cash assistance to help with their monthly rent payments. To qualify, families must have a gross household income of \$40,000 or less, have at least one dependent child, and have been employed at some point over the last year.
  - New RAP applicants with reduced income may have their eligibility and benefit calculation temporarily based on new, reduced income. In addition, the Emergency Care Benefit from the federal government will be considered a qualifying, employment replacement income.
  - For more information visit: <https://www.bchousing.org/housing-assistance/rental-assistance/RAP>
  - Or call toll free: 1-800-257-7756
- **Shelter Aide For Elderly Renters**
  - The Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) program helps make rents affordable for BC seniors with low to moderate incomes. SAFER provides monthly cash payments to subsidize rents for eligible BC residents who are age 60 or over and who pay rent for their homes.
  - For more information visit: <https://www.bchousing.org/housing-assistance/rental-assistance/SAFER>
  - Or call toll free: 1-800-257-7756
- **British Columbia Temporary Rental Supplement (BC-TRS)**
  - Applications will open in mid-April. Tenants and landlords will each need to submit an application.
  - The new BC Temporary Rental Supplement, or BC-TRS, will be administered by BC Housing. This new program will provide a temporary rental supplement to assist eligible low- and moderate-income renters who are struggling to pay their rent as a result of income loss or income reduction due to COVID-19. Eligible tenants will have the benefit

paid directly to their landlord, benefitting both the landlord and the tenant. At this time, this is a three-month program.

- To be eligible, tenants must have experienced an income loss or reduction as a result of the current COVID-19 pandemic. Benefiting people with low to moderate incomes, this supplement will be available to renters who are facing financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 crisis, but do not qualify for existing rental assistance programs. Full eligibility criteria will be available on BC Housing's website soon
- For more information visit: <https://www.bchousing.org/COVID-19>
- Or call toll free: 1-877-757-2577
- **Homeless Prevention Program**
  - The Homeless Prevention Program is an initiative aimed at providing individuals in identified at-risk groups facing homelessness with portable rent supplements and support services to help them access rental housing in the private (non-subsidized) housing market.
  - The rent supplements and support services help recipients access rental housing in the private (non-subsidized) housing market and community-based services.
  - For more information visit: <https://www.bchousing.org/housing-assistance/homelessness-services/homeless-prevention-program>
  - Or call toll free: <https://www.bchousing.org/housing-assistance/homelessness-services/find-homeless-prevention-outreach-worker>

### **For citizens residing in Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government owned Housing:**

- **Rent Deferrals**
  - As of March 30th, 2020 the Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Executive has put measures in place to offer temporary relief from payments for our clients who are experiencing financial hardship. Using this form you can request for more time to make payments. Tenants may request deferral of rent payment for their rent on a monthly basis during the 2020 state of emergency outlined in YFNO 1/2020.
  - **If your request is approved then you will still have to pay your rent for the applied months and as outlined in the agreed upon repayment agreement.**

Other changes to the way all tenancy is managed throughout the province include:

- Most evictions are not allowed, and notices to end tenancy cannot be given for any reason. In exceptional circumstances, a landlord may apply directly to the Residential Tenancy Branch to end the tenancy.
- Orders of possession cannot be enforced until after the state of emergency except under exceptional circumstances.
- If the notice to end tenancy was given on or after March 30, 2020, it can be ignored as the notice is of no force or effect. You might want to talk to your landlord about the new rules in case they are not aware.
  - If the notice to end tenancy was given before March 30, 2020, tenants may:
    - Dispute the notice by making an application for dispute resolution
    - Accept the notice, and the tenancy will end
  - A notice given before March 30, 2020 is a valid notice, and statutory timelines are in effect. If you fail to dispute the notice within the appropriate timeline, you will be deemed to have accepted that the tenancy is ended, and you may be evicted after the state of emergency has ended.
- If you gave your landlord a notice to end tenancy, the notice is valid, and your landlord may apply for an order of possession.
- A landlord can give a notice of rent increase in accordance with the BC Tenancy Act. However, the rent increase will not come into effect until the state of emergency has ended.
- To encourage physical distancing and minimize transmission of COVID-19, these changes mean that landlords are not permitted to enter the rental unit without the consent of the tenant (even if proper notice has been served) unless there is risk to personal property or life.
  - A landlord cannot enter the rental unit for open houses or to show the unit to prospective tenants without the consent of the tenant.
  - A landlord cannot enter the rental unit to make regular repairs unless the tenant gives consent