



NATIONAL ADVOCACY.
COMMUNITY ACTION.



November 3, 2025

Toronto City Hall

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RE: EX27.1 – Impacts of Provincial Legislation that Weakens Rental Protections

Dear Mayor Chow and Members of the Executive Committee,

For over 150 years, YWCA Toronto has been a leader in the provision of safe, stable and affordable housing. As the largest multi-service organization serving women, girls and gender diverse people in the city, our Association helps families escape violence, move out of poverty and access safe and affordable housing. Offering over 820 units of deeply affordable housing and four emergency shelters, we see firsthand the importance of protecting stable and affordable housing to protect and build stronger families and communities.

Today, we are writing to extend our solidarity to Mayor Olivia Chow and the City of Toronto in challenging the changes to the Residential Tenancies Act in Bill 60 and the weakening of rental protections by the Government of Ontario.

The proposed changes to housing and tenancy laws will disproportionately harm women, gender diverse people and their families in the following ways:

- Heighten the risk of homelessness for women and gender diverse people
 - o Women, children and gender diverse people are among the populations most vulnerable to experiencing homelessness. A 2024 study by the Canadian Centre for Housing Rights involving 500 unhoused women and gender-diverse people found that 75 per cent were survivors of gender-based violence and 63 per cent had children. Among younger Canadians, racialized, 2SLGBTQIA+, newcomer and Black communities were overrepresented. Last year, the Star reported that 1,486 kids were staying in Toronto shelters (of which 130 were less than a year old) and another 1,400 had been wait-listed. Accelerating evictions and reducing the time available for renters to appeal unfair decisions at the Landlord Tenant Board not only increases housing precarity for these communities – forcing unsafe living conditions and/or homelessness – but puts further demand on our already over-capacity shelter system.
- Economic uncertainty and hardship
 - o For women, children, and gender diverse people living in low-income households, the ability to meet their needs and work toward greater economic prosperity is harder

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now than ever. Across the province, families are facing soaring rates of inflation, increasing housing costs and stagnating wages. Unstable housing leads to a range of unique challenges for women and their families – disrupting access to child care, making it harder to upskill and maintain steady employment due to increased stress and lack of space to prepare, etc. Shortening notice periods for evictions and reducing compensation for evictions leaves tenants with even fewer resources to secure new housing in an already expensive market, and contradicts the province's stated goals to employ more women. To support the economic security of women and gender diverse people, thereby enabling their ability to participate in the economy, housing stability must be protected.

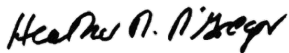
- Safety and Violence Prevention
 - o Housing instability and gender-based violence are intrinsically linked. Survivors of gender-based violence are more likely to become unhoused due to a lack of access to safe and secure housing, or are forced to stay in violent homes because they have nowhere else to go. When women, gender diverse people and their children are forced into unsafe housing or homelessness, their exposure to violence increases. Policies that create greater housing precarity, less access to secure and affordable housing, and erode tenant protections remove critical safeguards for survivors of gender based and intimate partner violence.

All of these harms are greater for women and gender diverse people who are Indigenous, racialized, newcomers, living with disabilities and all those who are already navigating systemic barriers to accessing housing. Bill 60 will deepen housing precarity, increase the risk of gender-based violence and jeopardize economic stability for women, gender diverse people and their families. Bill 60 challenges gender equity and human rights

Recognizing all of these critical concerns and those that have already been shared by our community partners, we urge the Executive Committee to recognize the gendered impacts of these housing policies in their advocacy efforts. Every effort to protect the rights of tenants must be enacted. It is in that vein that YWCA Toronto encourages the adoption of EX27.1 – Impacts of Provincial Legislation that Weakens Rental Protections.

Sincerely,

Heather McGregor



Chief Executive Officer, YWCA Toronto