

April 23, 2024

The Honourable Sean Fraser, P.C., M.P.

Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities

House of Commons

Ottawa, ON

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Re: Developing the Canadian Renters' Bill of Rights

Dear Minister,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Canadian Centre for Housing Rights (CCHR) to offer our support for the development of the Canadian Renters' Bill of Rights, which was announced as part of the 2024 federal budget and new Canada Housing Plan.

CCHR is Canada's leading registered charitable organization working to advance the right to housing across the country. Founded in 1987, CCHR has worked tirelessly for over 35 years at the intersection of human rights and housing. We advance the right to housing by serving renters to help them stay housed, providing education and training about housing rights, and advancing rights-based housing policy through research, policy development, advocacy, and law reform.

We commend the federal government for taking a leadership role on renters' rights and protections by identifying the need for and committing to develop a Canadian Renters' Bill of Rights. As experts on renter protection laws across the country, we know that strengthening protections for renters is critical to addressing the housing crisis and implementing the right to housing.

Renters across the country are facing soaring rent costs, few affordable options, and limited housing security. Renters are increasingly facing housing precarity and homelessness due to a lack of adequate protections against excessive rents, unnecessary evictions, renovations, disrepair, discrimination, and many other issues. Current renter protection laws are a patchwork and vary significantly between provinces and territories. To address this, CCHR has long advocated for national standards that ensure a minimum level of protection for all renters across Canada. Not only would this help protect affordability and security for renters, but it would also help mitigate the ongoing loss of existing affordable homes when renters are evicted and displaced.

To ensure that the Renters' Bill of Rights truly addresses the needs of renters and reflects their voices, we hope that the federal government will engage with renter communities and organizations that represent them throughout the development of the bill. At the same time, the government should engage with experts on renter protections to ensure that the bill is grounded in evidence-based legal and policy expertise.

CCHR would be pleased to offer our expertise and support leading up to and throughout the development of the bill. We would welcome the opportunity to connect with you and your team in the coming weeks as you begin to determine the scope of the bill and the consultation and development process.

The Renters' Bill of Rights could provide a crucial standard of renter protections for every province and territory to strive towards. We once again commend the government for taking this vital step to protect renters and help them secure their right to housing. We look forward to opportunities to help inform this bill and ensure that all renters across Canada have the right to secure and affordable housing.

Yours sincerely,



Annie Hodgins
Executive Director
[Canadian Centre for Housing Rights](https://www.housingrightscanada.com)