

Dear Mayor Cam Guthrie, City Council Members, and all Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to you today with a heavy heart, as I face an incredibly difficult and uncertain time. I am a single parent living in Guelph, and after working hard to complete my education and better my family's future, I now find myself at risk of losing the very roof over our heads. My landlord is attempting to renovict us, and I have no place to turn.

In the past nine months, despite my best efforts, I have been unable to find stable employment. I have tried everything I can to ensure a stable future for my child, but the lack of job opportunities has left me feeling stuck and scared. Now, with this renovation looming, my fear has turned into desperation. The thought of not being able to provide a safe home for my child is unbearable.

This is not just my story. Many families and individuals in Guelph are facing similar struggles. Renovictions are becoming more common, and landlords are taking advantage of vulnerable tenants. These are families, single parents, seniors, and low-income residents who are already struggling to make ends meet. Forcing them out of their homes for the sake of profit is simply unjust.

I ask you to please consider the human impact of this situation. Families like mine are hanging by a thread, and without action, we risk losing everything. We need stronger by-laws to protect tenants from renovations, and we need them now. Other cities have taken steps to curb this unfair practice, and I believe Guelph can do the same.

I know that Guelph is a community that values compassion, fairness, and justice. I've seen the kindness and strength of this city firsthand, and I believe that you, as leaders, have the power to make a real difference in the lives of people who need your help. Please, help prevent more families from being torn apart by renovations. Help us feel safe in our homes again.

I am deeply grateful for your time and consideration, and I sincerely hope that you will take the steps needed to protect the people of Guelph who are at risk of losing their homes. Your compassion and leadership can make all the difference.

With heartfelt thanks,

Henok Sium

