

Dear City Council,

The security of a home is a fundamental need. It is where we take off our shoes, rest, and find comfort. I have experienced life without a home, and the thought of losing my housing again — this time with my children — is terrifying. I am writing this in hope that City Council will create a renoviction bylaw.

I currently live in subsidized housing, a “home of last resort” designed to support families like mine. Yet, I face the risk of losing my home due to rising market pressures and potential renovations. After ten years in my unit, a place where I’ve watched my children grow and brought babies home, I now face the possibility of being displaced so that someone who can pay more can move in.

The housing complex’s mortgage is ending soon, and discussions about internal subsidies and tenancy rules could give management greater power to evict tenants. This creates an environment where families like mine are vulnerable, not because of any failing on our part, but simply because of the financial incentives for landlords.

As a disabled single mother, I have faced barriers in the housing system before. Presenting ODSP income to landlords has often been met with rejection, and having children in tow increases the risk of being denied housing. The consequences of displacement for my family could be severe, potentially leaving my children homeless or in foster care — through no fault of our own.

Long-term tenants provide stability, consistency, and reliability. Evicting good tenants for reasons beyond their control undermines families, communities, and the very purpose of affordable housing. Renovations should improve living conditions, not push families into homelessness.

I urge the City Council to consider stronger protections against renovictions, to ensure that tenants — especially those in subsidized or vulnerable housing — are not displaced for financial gain. Every family deserves a home that remains a home.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,
Karla Oehring