



March 25, 2020

COVID-19 UPDATE: PROVINCIAL RELIEF FOR RENTERS AND RENTAL PROVIDERS

The provincial government announced today a number of [measures for renters and rental home providers](#) to address COVID-19 housing concerns. UDI continues to advocate for measures that will support and provide cash flow to members that both own and manage rental properties. Last night, we sent a [letter to the Premier](#) outlining our recommendations. The events and situation are fast moving; and, we are working hard on your behalf.

Highlights:

- **RENT REBATE:** Up to \$500 a month for three months for qualifying renters, paid directly to rental providers and administered through BC Housing, whose application portal will be available shortly. [Government is still sorting out whether rebate is tied to the unit or the renter.](#) Renters must demonstrate lost income or layoff based on the federal EI process.
- **RENT FREEZE:** Effective April 1, all annual rent increases are frozen for the duration of the public health emergency.
- **EVICTION MORATORIUM:** All existing and future evictions are suspended during the COVID-19 emergency order, with some exceptions, such as a clear threat to person or property. Court-ordered evictions are dealt with independently by the courts.
- **SUITE ACCESS:** Rental providers can no longer enter a rental unit without the consent of the tenant (for example, for showings or routine maintenance), unless in exceptional cases to protect health and safety or to prevent undue damage to the unit. This is to support personal and social distancing.
- **COMMON AREA RESTRICTION:** Rental providers may now restrict access to common areas, such as laundry rooms, games rooms, shared spaces, and social spaces, to prevent virus spread.

Additional Resources:

- [BC Government News Release supporting Renters and Rental Providers](#)
- [Greater Vancouver Board of Trade COVID-19 tax relief bulletin](#)
- [B.C.'s COVID Action Plan](#)
- [Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan](#)
- [B.C.'s COVID-19 Action Plan helps people and businesses](#)
- B.C. COVID-19 self-assessment tool [found online here](#)
- Latest **non-medical COVID-19 updates**, including travel recommendations, please call or text the provincial government through a newly created hotline at 1-888-268-4319 (1-888-COVID19) between 7:30 a.m. and 8 p.m. daily
- [Latest orders and directives from the provincial health officer](#)

- If you or a family member have symptoms or need medical advice, **call 811**
- For prevention and treatment, visit [BC Centre for Disease Control](#) or follow [@CDCofBC](#)

Please let me know if you have any additional questions or concerns by contacting me at AMcMullin@udi.org.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne McMullin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Anne McMullin, President & CEO, UDI