



November 9, 2020

COVID-19 UPDATE: PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES RESIDENTIAL RENT FREEZE EXTENDED, PENDING INCREASES CANCELLED

Today, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing [announced](#) that effective immediately, the Province is **extending the freeze on rent increases until July 10, 2021**, under the powers of the *Emergency Program Act* and COVID-19 Related Measures Act.

As stated in the news release: *“The Province originally froze rent increases on March 18, 2020, with the ban set to expire Dec. 1. All renters who have received notice their rent was set to increase after the March 30, 2020, ban, including increases set for Dec. 1, should disregard those notices and continue to pay their current rent amount until July 10, 2021.”*

This new change will cancel any previously issued rent increases with an effective date of April 1, 2020 to the end of 2020 - in addition to any new rent increases through July 2021.

UDI has been working closely with LandlordBC on this issue and they have provided clarity on the new announcement: *“The rent increase freeze will be extended through December 2020 thereby negating the previously announced increase effective December 1, 2020. This rent increase freeze is in fact an extension of the current rent increase freeze under the [COVID-19 Related Measures Act](#). The Act is only in effect for one year (assented July 8th).”*

UDI continues to advocate for and support our members who own and operate rental properties. UDI is developing a survey for rental providers to better ascertain the impact of government regulation on purpose-built rental. The survey will be released in the coming weeks and we ask all rental providers to respond as it will inform our advocacy efforts with all levels of government. The survey will include questions and ask for solutions that the government should consider in order to mitigate the impact of the freeze on rent increases.

Please note that the NDP Platform called for a freeze on rental increases until the end of 2021. UDI will be seeking clarity from the Government on this.

For more information, please see [LandlordBC's member update](#) and the Provincial Government's [news release](#).

For more COVID-19 government resources, please visit our web page: <https://udi.bc.ca/external-covid-19-resources/>

For more COVID-19 real estate industry and business resources, please visit our web page: <https://udi.bc.ca/real-estate-industry-and-business-coronavirus-resources/>

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