



NOTICE: COVID 19 & HOUSING

March 30, 2020

The COVID 19 Pandemic has caused unprecedented changes to life around the world, and in York Region. The Community Legal Clinic of York Region is tracking changes in housing law that will affect our clients. Please note that this situation is changing quickly and the information in this notice is only current to its publication date. Please contact the Community Legal Clinic of York Region, or the relevant agency for the most current information.

During the Pandemic, the Community Legal Clinic of York Region continues to operate and help tenants; however, our office is only accepting telephone intakes and is not providing commissioning and notarizing services at this time. For more information go to <https://clcyr.on.ca/>.

Changes in Response to the Pandemic

- **The enforcement of eviction orders has been suspended until further notice.** Even Orders for Termination that have been filed with the Court Enforcement Office have been postponed and cannot be enforced until the court system reopens unless a court specifically grants permission to the Court Enforcement Office. You can read the court order at <https://bit.ly/2vQaCeW>
- **Self-help evictions by landlords or private bailiffs remain illegal.** If you or someone you know is facing an illegal eviction, refer them to the Rental Housing Enforcement Unit (Toll-free: 1-888-772-9277 or 416-585-7214) and their local legal clinic.
- When the above-mentioned court order expires, the Court Enforcement Office may start enforcing evictions without further notice to the affected tenants, depending on the direction that office receives from the Ministry of the Attorney General. If you have received an eviction order or notice to vacate that has not been enforced, please contact the Community Legal Clinic of York Region for advice on your eviction order.
- All Landlord and Tenant Board eviction hearings have been postponed as well as all scheduled in-person hearings. Only written and telephone hearings, and evictions of urgent importance, related to serious safety or criminality issues, will be heard at this time. All front line counter service is closed for the time being. <http://www.sjto.gov.on.ca/ltb/>
- The suspension of evictions does not suspend any of a tenant's obligations, such as the requirement to pay rent. We expect that various sources of funding will be made available but, if possible, continue to abide by the terms of your rental agreement. Ontario Premier, Doug Ford, stated on March 26, 2020, that those tenants that can truly not afford to pay their rent along with their other expenses, should not prioritize rent; however, at this time, no details related to this statement have been released. <https://bit.ly/2U1LHcB>
- The Government of Ontario is providing immediate electricity rate relief for families, small businesses and farms paying time-of-use (TOU) rates. For a 45-day period, time-of-use electricity rates are abolished and electricity will cost the off-peak rate of 10.1 cents-per-kilowatt-hour, 24

hours per day, seven days a week to all TOU customers. This discount will be applied automatically to electricity bills without the need for customers to fill out an application form. See <https://bit.ly/3akgNXI>

- The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) has extended the provincially-mandated moratorium on residential disconnection for non-payment until July 31, 2020. <https://bit.ly/33J7ldH>
- Hydro One has created a Pandemic Relief Fund and will be offering flexible repayment plans for those affected by the Pandemic. For more information and to apply see <https://bit.ly/2vPCkII>. Please check with your own utility providers for any other potential relief efforts.
- Canadians who have lost income due to the Pandemic may be eligible for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit, which may entitle them for up to \$2000 per month for four months. For more information see <https://bit.ly/39khKOd>