

OBJECT: PAYMENT OF RENT

Dear Tenants,

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic impact, we wish to inform you that monthly rent payments are required for all tenants, according to the terms of their lease. Contrary to some circulating false information, the government has not announced any exemption from paying rent for tenants, nor any assistance program for landlords.

If you have lost your job or are experiencing a significant drop in your income, we understand that this situation can be stressful for you. That is why all levels of government are offering emergency financial assistance in various forms.

In addition to the Employment Insurance program for which some workers do not qualify, the federal government has announced the **Emergency Support Allowance** and **Emergency Care Benefit** programs to cover the most pressing needs such as rent and food. Go to www.canada.ca and click on the tab “Get the support you need”.

Ontarians who are experiencing a financial emergency because of COVID-19 can also turn to the province’s **Ontario Works** program, which can help with the cost of housing and food. Even if you are not currently on social assistance, and do not want to apply for social assistance, you can still apply for COVID-19 emergency assistance under this program. Go to www.mcass.gov.on.ca and click on the “Social Assistance” tab.

Finally, your local **Rent Bank** offers financial assistance to low-income residents who need assistance with their rent. Visit www.toronto.ontariotenants.ca for the office nearest you.

The monthly rent payments for April 1st have to be paid. You must apply to government authorities for personal assistance programs to help you deal with financial difficulties, if necessary.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.