



January 17, 2020

Ref: 251307

His Worship Mayor Mike Hurley  
City of Burnaby  
4949 Canada Way  
Burnaby BC V5G 1M2

Referred to:  
Planning and Development Committee  
(2020.01.28)  
Copied to:  
City Manager  
Dir. Corporate Services  
Dir. Finance  
Dir. Planning and Building

Dear Mayor Hurley:

Thank you for your letter regarding Burnaby Council's vote to approve in principle a revised Tenant Assistance Policy. I apologize for the delay in responding.

I am pleased to hear about the City of Burnaby's progress toward developing sustainable transit-oriented communities, and about the City's concerns for tenants in this process. Tenant displacement is a major concern for our government, and in 2018 we made several [changes to the Residential Tenancy Act](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/housing-tenancy/residential-tenancies/changes-to-tenancy-laws?keyword=right&keyword=of&keyword=first&keyword=refusal) (https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/housing-tenancy/residential-tenancies/changes-to-tenancy-laws?keyword=right&keyword=of&keyword=first&keyword=refusal) to provide further protections to tenants who are at risk of eviction due to demolition, renovation or conversion.

The Residential Tenancy Branch has also issued a [new policy guideline](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/housing-and-tenancy/residential-tenancies/policy-guidelines/gl2b.pdf) (https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/housing-and-tenancy/residential-tenancies/policy-guidelines/gl2b.pdf) to clarify a landlord's responsibilities when ending a tenancy to demolish, renovate or convert a rental unit.

The Province is currently working toward addressing all of the Rental Housing Task Force's recommendations, including the recommendation to work with local governments to develop tenant compensation and relocation guidelines. In this regard, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing staff have met with City of Burnaby staff to gain a better understanding of the proposed Tenant Relocation and Assistance Policy. Government is also exploring how this issue affects communities throughout the province, and we are considering a variety of options to reduce the impact of redevelopment on renters while encouraging investment into safe, energy-efficient rental housing supply.

The ministry will continue working with municipalities like the City of Burnaby and other stakeholders to ensure we create the right balance for tenants, landlords, and developers in Burnaby and throughout the province. If you have any questions about this issue, please contact Tyann Blewett, Director of Policy for the Residential Tenancy Branch, by email at: [Tyann.Blewett@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Tyann.Blewett@gov.bc.ca).

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Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Robinson', written over a light grey rectangular background.

Selina Robinson  
Minister

pc: Tyann Blewett  
Director of Policy  
Residential Tenancy Branch