

Letter to Landlords (“we” version)

Dear [your landlord's name],

As you are probably well aware, the response to the COVID-19 pandemic has caused sudden and widespread unemployment and wage loss for millions of people throughout Canada. We are now following Public Health recommendations by practising social distancing and/or self-isolation. While necessary to prevent the spread of disease, these measures have had a devastating impact on our financial stability. The federal government has instituted some emergency aid but it isn't enough to maintain our costs of living. This is especially significant in Kingston, where rent is among the highest in the province.

We are struggling to make ends meet in an economy that has all but halted and are in no position to pay bills in the upcoming weeks. During this time of uncertainty, it is crucial that we focus our financial resources on the health and basic needs of ourselves and our loved ones.

In an effort to prevent mass evictions and foreclosures as a result of this unprecedented emergency, tenants and homeowners in our community have committed to calling for a rent and mortgage freeze. Neither party should have to worry about making their payments while risking illness, hospitalization, and even death. We hope that by doing this in large numbers at the onset of this crisis, we will be able to force the national conversation toward rent and mortgage suspension, abatement, and/or forgiveness.

We write to you to request a grace period on rent, without retroactive payments expected, while the pandemic is ongoing. After this crisis concludes, work will hopefully resume and our financial situation will stabilize. We also urge you to communicate with your other tenants and offer assistance if necessary.

This is a difficult time for everybody. We understand that you might also be negatively affected by the virus. As of March 17th, all major Canadian banks are offering immediate emergency mortgage deferments for up to 6 months. We encourage you to apply, and sincerely hope that you will find these measures helpful. You can also do your part by contacting your financial institution and demanding that they suspend all mortgage payments and interest accrument for the remainder of the crisis.

Yours truly,

[Your name]

[Your address]

[Date]

Letter to Landlords (“I” version)

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As you are probably well aware, the response to the COVID-19 pandemic has caused sudden and widespread unemployment and wage loss for millions of people throughout Canada. I am now following Public Health recommendations by practising social distancing and/or self-isolation. While necessary to prevent the spread of disease, these measures have had a devastating impact on my financial stability. The federal government has instituted some emergency aid but it isn't enough to maintain my costs of living. This is especially significant in Kingston, where rent is among the highest in the province.

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Yours truly,

[Your name]

[Your address]

[Date]