

My income has been impacted by the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic and I can't pay my rent! My landlord wants to evict me – what should I do?

Don't panic! **You DO NOT need to move out of your unit.** A piece of paper doesn't mean you're evicted yet! As a tenant, you have two basic rights:

- **You can fight your eviction in a hearing at the Residential Tenancies Branch** (the court that judges disputes between tenants and landlords).
- **You cannot be harassed while fighting eviction.** You have all the same rights as a normal tenant, meaning your landlord can't:
 - Attempt to change your locks
 - Enter your unit without 24hr notice and just cause (e.g. completing a repair)
 - Damage the property
 - Continually harass you to leave over the phone / over email / in person
 - Call the police to remove you from your unit

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Residential Tenancies Branch (RTB) has 'paused' scheduling any 'non-urgent' eviction hearings. **You will be allowed to stay in your unit until the RTB 'unpauses' and begins scheduling eviction hearings again on May 31.** The only evictions allowed are for '**severe impairment of safety**', such as threatening other tenants with a weapon or engaging in illegal activity.

If your landlord tries to violate your rights, you can call the Residential Tenancies Branch at (204) 945-2476 and they will contact your landlord to make them stop. You can also call the Tenant-Landlord Cooperation at (204) 927-2335 if you would like a housing advocate to talk to your landlord on your behalf.

After May 31, **your landlord can file for a hearing at the RTB and evict you for any rent you still owe.** We don't believe this is fair, and we want the government to ensure no tenants are evicted for owing rent after the pandemic is over. If you agree, **please sign [this petition](#) demanding that the provincial government support tenants during the COVID-19 pandemic!**

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you are on EIA, it is very important that you continue to pay your rent as EIA benefits are not impacted by COVID-19. Failing to pay your rent might impact your standing with EIA and affect your basic needs.

Thanks to the folks at **Fearless R2W** for this. Check out [poster versions here](#).