



Office of the Mayor

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Hon. Bill Morneau
Minister of Finance
Parliament Hill
Ottawa, ON

Hon. Rod Phillips
Minister of Finance
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON

RE: Rent Relief for Residential Renters

Dear Ministers,

As the COVID-19 pandemic persists, a growing number of Canadians are feeling significant financial pressures to make ends meet. While both your governments have provided extraordinary relief to residents, there is still one more area that needs your attention: residential rents.

May 1st is fast approaching and for many renters and landlords across Mississauga, Ontario and Canada, this month will be a particular struggle. On April 1st, we asked landlords and renters to work out agreements. If a renter can pay, they must. If they cannot, we asked landlords to extend grace and possibly defer payments until such time as the renter was able to pay again.

For many, May 1st will be the date of their second missed rent payment. While Ontario has forbidden evictions during this emergency, I fear that once this is lifted, many will find themselves without a home.

The average rent for a one bedroom apartment in Mississauga is now over \$1,900 a month. This does not include larger units for families. Even with Employment Insurance or the Canadian Emergency Relief Benefit, there is not much left to pay for food, utilities, and other monthly living expenses. \$2,000 does not go as far in Mississauga as it does in communities outside the GTHA.

Last week, your governments worked together to provide rent relief to small and medium sized businesses. This was welcomed by many businesses in our community and we thank you for this investment. In many cases, you saved businesses from going under. You have put in place strict criteria to receive this relief. I ask that you consider doing the same for residential renters with a similar program for those who need assistance.

In Mississauga, we have done what we can by deferring property tax payments for 3 months, waiving late penalties on utility bills, and deferring rents for all those tenants in our City facilities. We would like to do more and offer rent relief to residents, but as you know well, municipalities do not have the financial tools to do this. The property tax was not designed to provide this type of relief.

It has been wonderful to watch all three levels of government work together to address this crisis. Together, we have accomplished a great deal in a short period of time, yet our work is far from over. In an effort to allow our residents to weather the storm for a while longer, I ask that you implement a rent relief program for all Canadians who need it.

Without a safe, secure place to call home, many will struggle to maintain or seek employment and will become increasingly vulnerable. Interim rent relief is one way we can help protect the well-being of our people while creating the conditions for our local economy to rebound.

Thank you for your consideration. We are all in this together, and we will get through this, together.

Regards,



Bonnie Crombie
Mayor

Cc., Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Hon. Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs
Hon. Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry
Hon. Omar Alghabra, Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister

Peter Fonseca, MP
Iqra Khalid, MP
Sven Spengemann, MP
Gagan Sikan, MP
Natalia Kusendova, MPP
Sheref Sabawy, MPP
Deepak Anand, MPP
Rudy Cuzzetto, MPP
Kaleed Rasheed, MPP
Nina Tangri, MPP