



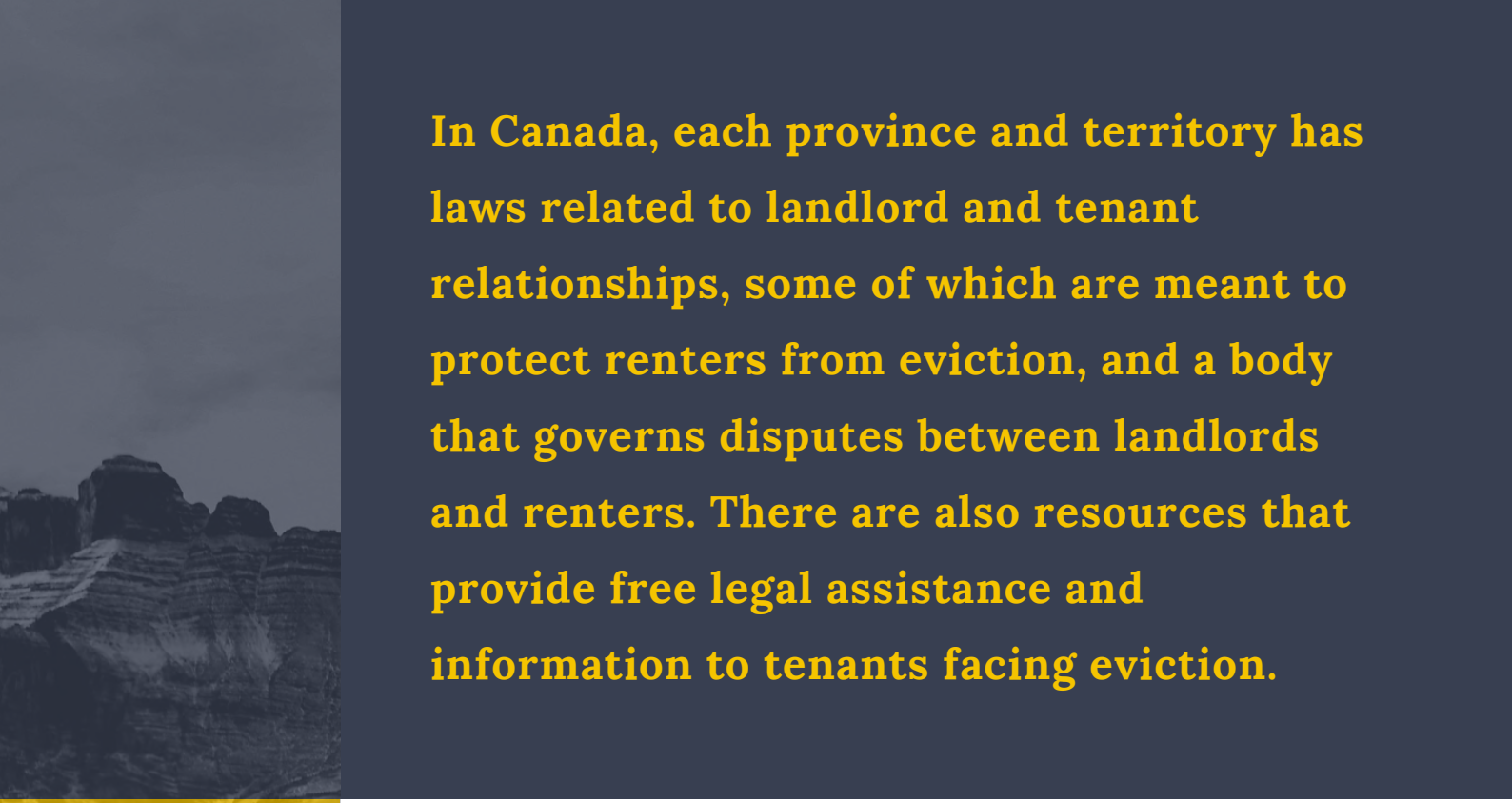
# RESOURCES FOR RENTERS FACING EVICTION: PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO HOUSING IN CANADA



Centre for Equality Rights in Accommodation  
Centre pour les droits à l'égalité au logement



THE NATIONAL  
**RIGHT TO HOUSING**  
NETWORK



**In Canada, each province and territory has laws related to landlord and tenant relationships, some of which are meant to protect renters from eviction, and a body that governs disputes between landlords and renters. There are also resources that provide free legal assistance and information to tenants facing eviction.**

## **ALBERTA**

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### **What laws can protect your tenancy?**

- [Residential Tenancies Act](#)
- [Alberta Human Rights Act](#)

### **Who can make decisions about your tenancy?**

- [Residential Tenancy Dispute Resolution Service \(RTDRS\)](#)
- [Alberta Human Rights Commission](#)

### **Where can you go for legal help or information?**

- [Student Legal Assistance](#)
- [Student Legal Services of Edmonton](#)
- [Edmonton Community Legal Centre](#)
- [Laws for Landlords and Tenants in Alberta](#)
- [Calgary Legal Guidance](#)
- [Pro Bono Law Alberta](#)

# BRITISH COLUMBIA

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## What laws can protect your tenancy?

- [Tenancy Laws and Rules](#)
- [Human Rights Code](#)

## Who can make decisions about your tenancy?

- [The Residential Tenancy Branch](#)
- [Office of the Human Rights Commissioner](#)

## Where can you go for legal help or information?

- [Community Legal Assistance Society \(CLAS\)](#)
- [Tenant Resource and Advisory Centre](#)
- [Access Pro Bono Residential Tenancy Program](#)

# MANITOBA

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## What laws can protect your tenancy?

- [Acts and Regulations](#)
- [Human Rights Code](#)

## Who can make decisions about your tenancy?

- [Residential Tenancies Branch](#)
- [Manitoba Human Rights Commission](#)

## Where can you go for legal help or information?

- [Legal Aid Manitoba](#)
- [Public Interest Law Centre](#)
- [Community Legal Education Association \(CLEA\)](#)

# NEW BRUNSWICK

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## What laws can protect your tenancy?

- [Residential Tenancies Act](#)
- [Human Rights Act](#)

## Who can make decisions about your tenancy?

- [Residential Tenancies Tribunal](#)
- [Human Rights Commission](#)

## Where can you go for legal help or information?

- [New Brunswick Human Rights Commission](#)

# NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

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## What laws can protect your tenancy?

- [Residential Tenancies Act](#)
- [Human Rights Act](#)

## Who can make decisions about your tenancy?

- [Digital Government and Service Newfoundland and Labrador](#)
- [Human Rights Commission](#)

## Where can you go for legal help or information?

- [Public Legal Information Association of Newfoundland and Labrador](#)



# NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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## What laws can protect your tenancy?

- [Residential Tenancies Act](#)
- [Residential Tenancies Regulations](#)
- [Human Rights Act](#)

## Who can make decisions about your tenancy?

- [Rental Office](#)
- [Northwest Territories Human Rights Commission](#)
- [Human Rights Adjudication Panel](#)

## Where can you go for legal help or information?

- [Outreach Legal Aid Clinics](#), or Call 1-867-920-3000

# NOVA SCOTIA

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## What laws can protect your tenancy?

- [Residential Tenancies Act](#)
- [Human Rights Code](#)

## Who can make decisions about your tenancy?

- [Residential Tenancies Program](#)
- [Human Rights Commission](#)

## Where can you go for legal help or information?

- [Nova Scotia Legal Aid](#)
- [Dalhousie Legal Aid Service](#)
- [Legal Info Nova Scotia](#)

# NUNAVUT

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## What laws can protect your tenancy?

- [Nunavut Residential Tenancies Act](#)
- [Human Rights Act](#)

## Who can make decisions about your tenancy?

- [Residential Tenancies Office](#)
- [Human Rights Tribunal](#)

## Where can you go for legal help or information?

- [Legal Services Board of Nunavut](#)

# ONTARIO

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## What laws can protect your tenancy?

- [Residential Tenancies Act](#)
- [Housing Services Act](#)
- [Ontario Human Rights Code](#)

## Who can make decisions about your tenancy?

- [Landlord and Tenant Board](#)
- [Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario](#)
- [Ontario Human Rights Commission](#)

## Where can you go for legal help or information?

- [Legal Aid Ontario](#)
- [Centre for Equality Rights in Accommodation \(CERA\)](#)
- [Community Legal Education Ontario \(CLEO\)](#)
- [Human Rights Legal Support Centre \(HRLSC\)](#)
- [Pro-Bono Ontario](#)

# PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

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## What laws can protect your tenancy?

- [Rental of Residential Property Act and Regulation](#)
- [Human Rights Act](#)

## Who can make decisions about your tenancy?

- [Office of the Director of Residential Rental Property](#)
- [Human Rights Commission](#)

## Where can you go for legal help or information?

- [Renting PEI](#)

# QUEBEC

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## What laws can protect your tenancy?

- [Act Respecting the Administrative Housing Tribunal](#)
- [Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms](#)
- [Civil Code Quebec](#)

## Who can make decisions about your tenancy?

- [Tribunal administratif du logement](#)
- [Commission des droits de la personne and droits de la jeunesse](#)

## Where can you go for legal help or information?

- [Legal aid Quebec](#)
- [Commission des services juridiques](#)
- [Éducaloi](#)

# SASKATCHEWAN

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## What laws can protect your tenancy?

- [Residential Tenancies Act](#)
- [Human Rights Code](#)

## Who can make decisions about your tenancy?

- [Office of Residential Tenancies](#)
- [Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission](#)

## Where can you go for legal help or information?

- [Community Legal Assistance Services for Saskatoon Inner City \(CLASSIC\)](#)
- [Public Legal Education Association of Saskatchewan](#)
- [Pro Bono Law Saskatchewan](#)

# YUKON

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## What laws can protect your tenancy?

- [Residential Landlord and Tenant Act](#)
- [Human Rights Act](#)

## Who can make decisions about your tenancy?

- [Residential Tenancies Office](#)
- [Yukon Human Rights Commission](#)
- Yukon Legal Services Society (YLSS): *Call 867-667-5210*

## Where can you go for legal help or information?

- [Law Society of Yukon Lawyer Certificate Program](#)
- [Skookum Jim Friendship Centre-Women's Legal Advocate Program](#)
- Neighbourhood Law Centre: *Call 1-800-661-0408 ext. 5255*
- [Yukon Public Legal Education Association \(YPLEA\)](#): *Call 1-867-668-5297*



# WHAT PROTECTIONS ARE AVAILABLE BEYOND PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION?

**The right to adequate housing is protected in international human rights law** under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). One of the main elements of the right to adequate housing is security of tenure which means that **renters should have legal protections against forced evictions, harassment, and other threats to their tenancies.**<sup>[1]</sup>

International law requires governments to have safeguards in place to ensure that evictions only occur in certain circumstances and that they are carried out as a last resort after all feasible alternatives have been explored. In addition, no eviction should be permitted where it would result in the violation of other human rights, such as the right to health or the right to life. This means that **no one should be evicted into homelessness.** If evictions are justified, they should be reasonable and proportional, and tenants must have the opportunity to protect their tenancies at tribunals and courts in Canada.<sup>[2]</sup>

Canada signed on to the ICESCR in 1976 and has international obligations to implement the right to housing. **In 2019, Canada recognized the right to adequate housing domestically, by passing the National Housing Strategy Act (NHSA).** This has furthered Canada's commitment to progressively realizing the right to housing over time.<sup>[3]</sup>

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[1] [CESCR General Comment No. 4: The Right to Adequate Housing](#), (Art. 11 (1) of the Covenant), paragraph 8(a).

[2] [The right to adequate housing \(Art.11.1\): forced evictions: 20/05/97. CESCR General comment 7.](#) (General Comments), paragraph 14.

[3] CERA. "[The National Housing Strategy Act: a Primer.](#)" Centre for Equality Rights in Accommodation. March 9, 2021.

The NHSA requires the government to develop a National Housing Strategy and to create mechanisms that will monitor Canada's implementation of the right to housing. **These mechanisms are:**



Renters can also claim their right to housing using the mechanisms that are going to be created under the NHSA. Specifically, **the Federal Housing Advocate can receive submissions on systemic housing issues** from impacted communities like renters, investigate these issues, and provide recommendations to the responsible Minister, such as the new Federal Housing Minister.

The threat of evictions across Canada has increased during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many households lost their jobs or income, have been unable to pay their rent in full, especially for those living in places where rents have soared, leaving them at risk of being evicted. This can be seen as a systemic housing issue that the Federal Housing Advocate can investigate and recommend an urgent response by the federal government. [4]

The pandemic has shown us that provincial laws may not be enough to protect renters from evictions. That is why it is important that renters start claiming their right to housing by **holding the government accountable to its commitments under international law and the NHSA.**

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[4] CERA. "[Eviction Trends During the Pandemic.](#)" Centre for Equality Rights in Accommodation. August 13, 2021.