

Writing a letter or an email to your local Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) can be a powerful tool for change- after all, taking the time to write a letter shows that you really care about your issue.

Write to them and get your friends, family and other tenants to do the same. If you write a letter- they'll read it (or find someone to read it)!

Keep your letter to between 1-2 pages. Short sentences make good points.

Your letter can cover:

- Who you are;
- What you are;
- Why are you writing;
- What you are asking;
- What you are going to do;

Please refer to the attached sample letters for inspiration!

SAMPLE LETTERS:

#1

Insert date: MM/DD/YYYY

To: My MPP
Ontario Legislature

Dear [insert name of MPP],

Re: [insert a one-line subject]

I am a tenant living at [insert your address]. My income has not increased in several years. [add a personal comment here – pensioner, parent, self-employed etc]. My landlord has been given rent increase after rent increase.

Last year they were awarded an extra [insert percentage]. I have lived in my building for ten years and every year the rent goes up. Yet, repairs are often not done or done very slowly or poorly.

These rent increases are permanent and I am finding it harder and harder to make ends meet.

I am pleased that you are taking an active role in housing issues and tenants' rights. We need stronger rent control and greater protection for tenants. The law needs to be much better, [insert remarks about the changes you would like them to make].

I plan to remain very involved in this issue. I am active in my building's Tenant Association and I will continue to support the Federation of Metro Tenants Associations.

Your support for this issue will greatly improve the quality of life for me and my neighbours so that we will not be subject to high rents and low maintenance. It is only fair.

Your attention is greatly appreciated.

Yours truly,
(Insert Name, Tenant Association and Address)

Sample letter 2:

To Our Local MPP

Dear Sir/Madam [pick appropriate term];
Re: [Insert a subject line]

We are writing to invite you to attend our upcoming meeting of our Tenants Association.

It is scheduled for Thursday December 11 at 7:30 in our building lobby. We will follow up to confirm your ability to attend.

There are 219 units in our building. Many of the tenants are struggling to make ends meet. We have been hit by rent increase after rent increase. We know that the government has promised change. Most of us cannot afford the current rents. The system is so unfair.

We want to use this meeting so that you can hear from us first hand, and we can hear from you on your plans to help us by working for real tenant protection.

I can be reached at 416-555-3333. We are very much looking forward to seeing you.

Yours truly
[Insert Name, Title/Tenant Association and Address]