Tips for student renters

As more than 600,000 university and college students across Ontario are preparing to go back to school, many of whom are becoming renters off-campus for the first time, the Ontario government is reminding students to understand their rights and responsibilities as tenants.

"Looking for housing off-campus can be daunting for students, especially those who are renting for the first time. That's why knowing your rights and responsibilities as a tenant can help you avoid problems and protect yourself," said Ted McMeekin, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Ontario's Residential Tenancies Act outlines the rights and responsibilities of landlords and tenants for most residential properties in the province, and includes rules about:

- How to terminate a lease
- When rent can be increased
- Repairs to rental units
- Rent receipts and deposits, subletting, having pets and changing locks
- To help your rental experience go as smoothly as possible:

Be aware of your rights and responsibilities as a tenant

• Keep open lines of communication with your landlord to minimize disagreements



- Ask your landlord to agree to rental terms in writing
- Always keep copies of documents that you provide to your landlord
- If your landlord has violated the Residential Tenancies Act or you have a complaint, contact the Investigation and Enforcement Unit

OUICK FACTS

The Residential Tenancies Act does not generally apply to students living in a university or college residence.

The Ontario Property and Sales Tax Credits provides up to \$1,000 annually to those with off-campus housing costs — whether you rent or own.

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