



REGROUPEMENT DES
COMITÉS LOGEMENT ET
ASSOCIATIONS DE LOCATAIRES
DU QUÉBEC

Press Release

“As rents explode we need control!” A new RCLALQ campaign to fight unaffordable rent prices

Montreal, November 10 2020 – The *Regroupement des comités logement et associations de locataires du Québec* (RCLALQ) launches today their new campaign called: “As rents explode we need control!” that demands the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Andrée Laforest, implement mandatory rent control. Doubly affected by the jump in rent prices and the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, low and modest income tenant households face a simply unsustainable situation. These tenants face choosing between feeding themselves and paying rent.

A [recent study](#) produced by the coalition shows how the average advertized rent of a 4 ½ for in Quebec is now \$1032 a month, with the price of an apartment of 3 bedrooms or more now priced at \$1300 each month. “The current legal mechanisms in place to limit rent inflation are nothing but smoke and mirrors. They are totally ineffective in the face of the repeated abuses of landlords,” denounces Maxime Roy-Allard, spokesperson for the RCLALQ.

“Presently, the burden rests completely on tenants’ shoulders. Meanwhile, many aren’t even aware that it’s possible to refuse rent increases. Others don’t dare refuse them out of fear of retaliation from their landlords. To make things worse, in nearly every case landlords do not share the necessary information such as the building revenue and expenses essential for tenants to verify if the increase being asked of them is justified”, the spokesperson adds. Every year, the *Tribunal administratif du logement* (TAL) publishes average estimates for rent increases, but nothing obliges landlords to conform to these guidelines.

The recent explosion of rent prices is also the result of purely abusive rent inflation carried out by landlords when tenants change over, a practice the RCLALQ has denounced for years. “In the absence of a public rent registry, building owners are able to skirt the preventative provisions of the Quebec Civil Code in complete impunity. These landlords break new ground in their despicability, frequently using illegal and often fraudulent strategies to push out tenants to profit from significantly inflating the rent for the next tenants upon their departure”, Roy-Allard asserts. Mandatory rent control, supported by a rent registry, would eliminate the abuses of these profit-obsessed landlords.

A day of actions to stress 40 years of injustice at the TAL

For the launch of this new campaign, the member groups of the RCLALQ have organized actions today to underscore the 40 years of the *Tribunal administratif du logement* (previously the *Régie du logement*). Demonstrations will take place in front of the TAL offices in Montreal and Quebec to denounce the failure of the tribunal to control rent prices. For the occasion, those present will be bestowing upon Ministre Laforest a very special gift: rent control.

-30-

rclalq.qc.ca

Renseignements:

Maxime Roy-Allard, RCLALQ, 514-781-2220