



**REGROUPEMENT DES
COMITÉS LOGEMENT ET
ASSOCIATIONS DE LOCATAIRES
DU QUÉBEC**

Press Release

**9^e Annual Tenants Day
To End the Housing Crisis, the RCLALQ Demands a Real
Rent Control**

Montreal, April 24, 2021 - As part of the 9th annual Tenants' Day and its "As Rents Explode, We Need Control!" campaign, the Coalition of Housing Committees and Tenant Associations of Quebec (CoHCTAQ/RCLALQ) is calling on the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Andrée Laforest, to implement mandatory rent control. Tenants and housing rights activists are taking part in gatherings happening in Montreal, Quebec City, St-Hyacinthe and Joliette calling on the government to acknowledge the urgency of the situation. In recent weeks, more than 500 community, union and student organizations have supported the RCLALQ's demands for rent control.

The spike in the housing market of recent months is having a significant impact on tenant households. Landlords, whether they are buyers or sellers, attempt by all means to evict them in order to dramatically increase the price of rent: harassment and intimidation, termination of the lease in exchange for money, illegal evictions and threats, all tactics are in use to circumvent the law. "On the ground, housing committees have never been more solicited than this year by requests for help from tenants. If Minister Laforest does not intervene quickly, it is a fair bet to say that more tenants than ever will be homeless on July 1st because they cannot afford housing," said Maxime Roy-Allard, spokesperson for the RCLALQ.

Earlier this year, the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) reported that rent prices in Quebec had risen by 6% in 2020, well above inflation and the rate suggested by the Administrative Housing Tribunal (TAL). In addition, the RCLALQ revealed in a study conducted in the spring of 2020 that housing for rent on the platform Kijiji is on average 30% more expensive than CMHC data shows. "When you look at the rental listings right now, there is every reason to believe that the numbers will be even higher this year. It is not uncommon to come across a 3 and a half at more than \$1000 and a 4 and a half at 1500\$. These prices are totally inaccessible and will force less well-off households to go into debt or cut into other basic needs," the spokesperson said.

Rent Control: A Solution to the Housing Crisis

The RCLALQ has long denounced the ineffectiveness of the current mechanisms provided through legislation to regulate rent increases since the burden of refusal falls on tenants. Either because of a lack of knowledge of their rights or fear of retaliation, too few tenants object to a rent increase. And in the absence of a rent registry, it is very difficult to dispute an unreasonable increase imposed on a change of tenants. To end the housing crisis and to end evictions, harassment, intimidation and discrimination experienced by tenants, the Coalition is calling on Minister Laforest to implement the following measures:

- An immediate rent freeze for all of Quebec
- Mandatory use of average rates of rent variation published annually by the Administrative Housing Tribunal
- The establishment of a rent registry

For more information on our demands, see the document [« Pour un contrôle des loyers »](#).

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