



Canadian Union of Public Employees
Manitoba Division

August 10, 2026

The Honourable Wab Kinew
Premier
Province of Manitoba
Legislative Building, 450 Broadway
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 0V8

The Honourable Mintu Sandhu
Minister of Public Services Delivery
Province of Manitoba
Legislative Building, 450 Broadway
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 0V8

Dear Honourable Premier Kinew, and Minister Sandhu:

Re: CUPE Manitoba Supports the Timely Passage of Proposed Amendments to
The Residential Tenancies Act and The Residential Rent Regulations

CUPE members applaud the Government of Manitoba's proposals to expand and strengthen rent control as a welcome step in addressing the cost-of-living crisis across Canada.

CUPE represents over 40,000 members across the public sector. Most of those members serve in support class roles, such as health care aides, EAs and labourers. As working-class Manitobans, many of our members rent, and will benefit significantly from the proposed amendments.

We, the undersigned, call on the Government of Manitoba to pass all proposed amendments to the Act as soon as possible and to immediately implement the Regulations as proposed as soon as possible.

As a union, we strive to make our members lives better in two ways. At the bargaining table, by advocating and fighting for higher wages, and through political actions, electing governments to make life more affordable and invest in the services that make Manitoba a good place to live, work and raise a family. Affordability is the driving factor behind core housing need. Tenants and people experiencing housing insecurity are in serious need of greater protections and measures supporting housing affordability. We are pleased to see you taking action on this important front.

Further, reducing chronic homelessness, decreasing precarious housing and increasing affordability will increase public safety, and reduce downstream costs associated with precarious housing or chronic homelessness. Protecting tenants protects vulnerable communities and benefits us all.

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CUPE members support further steps in the future. Expanding the number of renters protected by removing exceptions for new units would help ensure renters have equal protection. Reducing the list of expenses landlords can claim for the above guideline increase (AGIs), will help ensure that minor expenses do not result in exorbitant increases to rent. Ensuring rent increases from capital expenses are calculated based on their expected useful life and are removed when capital expenses are fully paid, will help stop AGIs pyramiding on themselves. Placing a limit of 9% on AGIs phased in at no more than 3% a year will ensure rent increases are predictable and budgeted. Disallowing rent discounts will stop easy loopholes to these important regulations.

Given that the changes to the Residential Rent Regulation are crucial steps in protecting housing affordability in Manitoba, that the Minister has stated that public feedback on these changes was overwhelmingly supportive, and that they do not require legislative change, we call on the Minister of Public Service Delivery to immediately implement these changes.

We note, with concern, that the Manitoba PCs decision to needlessly delay important protections for tenants shows that this mean-spirited PC party does not care about working Manitoba families, and instead, is protecting their well-heeled friends that are exploiting renters. Further, the Manitoba PCs have failed to propose even a single idea to protect tenants. What is clear though, is that only the Manitoba NDP Government cares about renters and their families.

We call on the Government of Manitoba to prevent any further delay in supporting tenants by passing Bill 13 as soon as possible in the fall legislative session.

In Solidarity,

Gina McKay

President
CUPE Manitoba

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