

The BG Greens believe that renters deserve homes that are safe, secure and affordable.

Housing is core to wellbeing. People with secure housing are able to fully participate in their communities—working, studying, caring and volunteering. For renters, secure housing is never assured; British Columbia leads the country in “renovictions” (displacement due to a landlord renovating), access to housing remains the top reason for surrendering pets, and a third of renters will spend over half of their income on rent. North Vancouver and Vancouver are the two most expensive cities in Canada for renters, with average rents of \$3,039 and \$2,686 per month respectively¹. Six of the 20 most expensive cities to rent in Canada are in British Columbia².

As more people are priced out of homeownership and are renting longer than in past generations, good rental homes are critical to solving the housing crisis. Skyrocketing rents have made it difficult for young families to plan for the future, strained employers’ ability to attract and retain talent, and forced many people to leave urban centers in search of affordable housing. Unfair provisions, including prohibition on pets, leave many renters feeling that they may be inhabiting a house, but they don’t have a home. Across the province, about 25 per cent of cats and dogs surrendered to the BC SPCA are given up by their guardians due to a lack of available pet-friendly housing. This represents about 1,150 pets annually³.

The BC Greens believe that housing is a basic human right, a place where individuals, families and communities can live in security and dignity—not a tool for generating profit. The private sector alone cannot deliver the affordable housing that we need: the federal and provincial governments must be part of the solution. This includes direct provision of affordable and deeply affordable units, protecting the already existing affordable units that remain, and helping with the costs of market rentals for those who are close to being able to meet market rents.

Decreases in asking rent is making life easier for new renters in some situations. But we lack detailed information about what rents are being charged for existing properties, and tenants don’t have the ability to seek a decrease in their existing rental agreement to match market rates. Instead, landlords are still seeking annual increases, leaving tenants forced to choose between making an expensive move or paying above market rates for an existing home.

¹ <https://rentals.ca/blog/rentals-ca-august-2026-rent-report>

² <https://rentals.ca/blog/rentals-ca-august-2026-rent-report>

³ <https://spca.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/renters-guide.pdf>

Indigenous British Columbians are more likely to be renters, and to be in core housing need than other population subgroups⁴. Indigenous people deserve to have housing that meets their needs, in culturally safe and supportive settings, administered by Indigenous and First Nations groups.

To ensure that renters can afford to build a life in British Columbia, the BC Greens will:

- Immediately restart the Community Housing Fund and Indigenous Housing Fund, with a goal of building and protecting 26,000 housing units per year.
- Implement Vacancy Control. Currently, rental increases are allowed once per year—unless there is a change of tenant. Vacancy control ties increases in rent to a unit, rather than a tenant, reducing the incentive for landlords to evict tenants without fault. Annual increases will continue to be determined by the Residential Tenancy Branch.
- Amend the Residential Tenancy Act to prohibit blanket no pets clauses in rental contracts. Instead, we will develop appropriate management guidelines on pets in rentals.
- Protect 2000 deeply affordable rental homes each year, by increasing funding and support for the Rental Protection Fund.
- Increase direct support for renters unable to afford market rentals, through the Rental Assistance Program (RAP) and the Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) program.
- Create a mechanism through the Residential Tenancy Branch to allow renters to seek an annual rent review when market rents in their city are decreasing.
- Provide adequate and equitable funding for Indigenous-led Complex Care Housing, designed and determined by Indigenous communities. This will include trauma-informed housing allocations and supported Rent Supplements set aside for Indigenous Peoples and administered in line with guidance from Indigenous organizations and communities, surrounded by supportive services.
- Pass responsibility for collecting and holding deposits to the Residential Tenancy Branch. In addition to ensuring that bonds are processed and returned when appropriate, this will provide additional information to the Residential Tenancy Branch on rents that are being charged - information that can be published for use by government and researchers.

⁴ https://housingcentral.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/BC_AffordableHousing_Plan.pdf