



TENANT CENTRIC APPROACH TO CLIMATE CRISIS

Housing justice is climate justice!

The climate crisis is causing catastrophic effects in our communities, low- and moderate-income tenants are bearing a disproportionate impact. Compared to homeowners, tenants are more likely to have lower incomes, live in older housing stock which is least maintained and energy efficient. Inefficient rental housing means higher utility bills, higher rents for tenants and increased health issues especially during extreme weather events which are becoming rampant with worsening effects of climate change.

THE EXTREME HEAT INCIDENT IN BC LED TO A LOSS OF MORE THAN 600 DEATHS, 98% OF DEATHS HAPPENED INDOORS IN HOMES WITHOUT ADEQUATE COOLING.
The BC Coroner's service, 2022

CANADA'S RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS ACCOUNT FOR 47% OF BUILDINGS SECTOR EMISSIONS IN CANADA. 20% OF ALL HOMES ARE MORE THAN 80 YEARS OLD, 50% ARE MORE THAN 60 YEARS OLD. RETROFITTING EXISTING APARTMENT BUILDINGS IS CRITICAL TO ACHIEVING CARBON EMISSION TARGETS.
The Canada Green Buildings Strategy 2024



ACORN'S DEMANDS FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Addressing climate crisis should not come at the expense of more rent increases and displacement for low- and moderate-income tenants. The goal of decarbonization needs to go hand in hand with housing justice.

- All green infrastructure retrofit partnerships and agreements from the Canada Infrastructure Bank, Ministry of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities, or CMHC must include must include:
 - Affordability and anti-eviction covenants
 - Energy efficiency and mechanical cooling measures
 - All rental types (townhomes to high-rises)
 - Allowance of other improvements before energy efficiency and mechanical cooling
 - Require landlords to demonstrate benefits for tenants.
 - Signed agreements from the landlord made transparent to the tenants
 - Formal tenant participation
 - Community Benefit Agreements - Agreements signed by the financing entity, the landlord and the tenants.
- Federal intervention is needed through direct investment and design, to enable the adoption of Mandatory Building Performance Standards (MBPS).

