



# ONTARIO ACORN

**THE PEOPLE SHALL RULE.**

November 25th, 2025

Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

**RE: Request for Premier to Meet with ACORN and Tenants**

Dear Premier Doug Ford,

We at Ontario ACORN are writing to address your recent comments during Question Period about auditing “organizations that funnel money to ACORN” and that “we [the Ontario Government] give money to agencies and they funnel it quietly to these left-wing radical groups.”

ACORN is a grassroots, community organization of poor and working-class tenants. Our members are volunteers — everyday low- and moderate-income tenants, seniors, workers, newcomers, and families — with a real stake in what Bill 60 will do to their lives. Across the province, our members have serious concerns about this bill. We wanted to share them through the normal democratic process, but it was fast-tracked, leaving no opportunity to engage with you or other decision-makers in your government. There was no committee meeting we could speak at, and no meaningful avenue to provide input. Over 25,000 Ontarians wrote to you urging a meeting with ACORN tenant leaders, and we personally delivered letters to PC MPP offices requesting dialogue. When all other avenues were blocked, our only recourse was to make our concerns known at the Legislature - which we did peacefully.

Our main concern with Bill 60 is simple: it will lead to more evictions which will lead to more homelessness. Your government just spent \$75 million to clear encampments, and now Bill 60 will create even more of them. Greater homelessness costs taxpayers more. Last year, AMO estimated that municipal governments spent \$2.1 billion on homelessness and housing, primarily funded through property taxes. Moreover, a recent study in Toronto found that the average person experiencing homelessness had about \$12,209/year in annual health care costs, compared to \$1,800–\$1,900 for similar housed individuals. If the Ontario government truly prioritizes taxpayers, **Bill 60 is the wrong path forward, because accelerating evictions will increase costs, not reduce them.**



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There is a lot of evidence that shows it is cheaper to keep people in their homes than evict them onto the streets. Instead of speeding up evictions, the government could create a provincial rent grant program for when people fall on hard times. For example, a single unexpected emergency — a death in the family, illness, or job loss — could put a tenant who is working minimum wage or on a fixed income temporarily behind. Bill 60 removes protections that keep tenants in their homes, leaving them vulnerable. A provincial rent grant program would be widely supported by tenants and landlords alike, save Ontario money AND keep people housed.

Instead of engaging with tenants, you chose to threaten a grassroots community organization. This reads as a Trump-esque tactic: targeting and intimidating groups that dare to dissent, particularly when that dissent challenges powerful interests. It is a distraction that glosses over the real problem: tenants were denied meaningful input on Bill 60, while landlord lobbyists directly shaped the legislation.

Since you raised the issue of funding, please consider this: what about the landlord lobby? How much are landlords, developers, and their associations donating to your party? The injustice is not ACORN organizing tenants to make their voices heard — it is a government process that silences the very people whose lives are most affected.

Yesterday in the Legislature, you told one of our members to “go get a job, buddy” — a disabled renter who has personally experienced housing loss after being displaced by a renovation. Telling a disabled tenant to “get a job” while your own policies have eliminated so many — from autism services and special education funding to social service agencies, colleges, and hospitals — is both disrespectful and hypocritical.

**We want to meet. ACORN is calling on you to sit down with us to discuss the harms of Bill 60 and how to increase tenant protections, not reduce them.**

Sincerely,

Alejandra Ruiz-Vargas  
President of ACORN Canada

Ontario ACORN Staff Contact: Ashley Reyns [ontario@acorncanada.org](mailto:ontario@acorncanada.org) 613 746 5999 ext 3