



Dear Mayor Chow and Toronto City Council:

As tenants in Toronto who are increasingly facing the effects of extreme heat, represented by the Toronto Tenant Union, Federation of Metro Tenants' Associations and ACORN, we want to write to you to reiterate our support for the City's proposed maximum temperature bylaw.

A maximum temperature bylaw, which would force landlords and property managers in Toronto to ensure apartment units are kept below 26°C, is a critical tool for renters in Toronto to protect our health and wellbeing.

This past weekend, Toronto renters dealt with our first heat wave of the year. Temperatures reached as high as 30 degrees in the city. As the majority of tenants in the city do not have AC, several of our members reported that their units were over 31°C at the heat wave's peak. In an unstable climate where heat waves are becoming more and more common, tenants' right to a safe and cool home must be protected. **A maximum temperature bylaw would offer an important tool that renters could appeal to when organizing for safe and healthy homes.** It must not be delayed or shelved for another year; we need this protection now.

We know the big corporate landlords have threatened to pass the costs of complying with this bylaw onto their tenants, including through Above Guideline Increases (AGIs). This possibility already exists for compliance with any property standards bylaw, many of which are important protections for tenants. Landlords routinely threaten to raise the rent when faced with bylaws that ensure safe, livable homes — placing the burden of corporate mismanagement and neglect onto tenants' backs. **This is no excuse for the City not to implement this critical health protection for Toronto tenants.**

We want to make our position clear. Ontario must ban AGIs and create real rent control; and in the meantime, the City of Toronto must implement a maximum heat bylaw to protect renters, now. Through organizations like the Toronto Tenant Union, ACORN and the FMTA, tenants have organized to fight and cancel AGIs around the City. We know that landlords will use any excuse they can find to raise the rent, and their influence should not be the reason that the City backs down on this bylaw. Toronto is getting hotter every year, and our health can't wait.

We are encouraged to see the City exploring subsidies to support large buildings in transitioning to greener, safer heating and cooling systems without passing the costs on to their tenants. Programs like the Taking Action on Tower Renewal and Energy Retrofit Loans can be improved and expanded to **make sure that buildings get onto safe, stable heating and cooling systems, without tenants footing the bill.**

Mayor Chow and Toronto City Council, we ask you to pass a maximum temperature bylaw now. Our homes are heating up, and we can't wait another year.