



# HOUSING

## HOW WILL HOUSING FOR YOUTH IN AND FROM CARE BE AFFECTED BY THE PANDEMIC?

### WHAT WE KNOW

MCFD has extended supports for youth aging out so they can safely stay where they are during the pandemic. These measures are in place until June 30, but MCFD will continue to re-evaluate based on the advice of the Provincial Health Officer.

#### IF YOU ARE A

- Youth in foster care
- Youth on Independent Living
- Youth on a Youth Agreement
- Youth in a group home or other residential facility
- Youth on AYA

Your social worker will work with you to keep your current placement the same. If you don't want to stay in your current placement, contact your social worker.

Right now it's hard for anyone to look at new housing with physical distancing in place, but talk to your social worker about what your options might be.

#### IF YOU ARE A

- Youth on an AYA

Young adults who are enrolled in the Agreements with Young Adults (AYA) program will continue to receive financial support despite school closures and other program interruptions caused by the current pandemic.

#### IF YOU ARE A

- Youth leaving care

Caregivers of youth in **FOSTER HOMES OR RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENTS** will be supported to continue supporting those youth past their 19th birthdays and throughout the pandemic.

Social workers are reaching out to caregivers to modify agreements where extensions are needed during the pandemic period.

Youth supported under **INDEPENDENT LIVING AGREEMENTS OR YOUTH AGREEMENTS** who are turning 19 will have their agreements extended, allowing them to continue to receive monthly support during the pandemic.

Youth nearing the end of an Independent Living or Youth Agreement will be given an option to continue receiving funding for the duration of the pandemic.

Social workers will contact youth to walk them through this process. If the amount you currently receive isn't enough during the pandemic, contact your social worker.

For youth who are scheduled to leave a **CUSTODY CENTRE** during the pandemic, all members of the youth's care team will work together to make sure there's a transition plan that addresses the needs of the youth and the community, and includes health and safety in COVID-19, stable housing (shelters don't count as stable housing), and safety and supervision.

#### IF YOU ARE A

- Youth who has recently left care

The extension of supports applies to youth who aged out after January 1, 2020. Contact MCFD **1-800-663-9122** to explore housing supports, or contact your last DAA/MCFD office.

#### IF YOU ARE A

- Youth aged 19 or over

If you're currently receiving supports from MCFD but you want to leave your placement, you can apply for Income Assistance with the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (SDPR).

Your social or AYA worker can help you with the transition, and they can talk to their colleagues at the SDPR to see if your application can be processed more quickly.

Find out more about Income Assistance at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/income-assistance>

For more information on MCFD's response to COVID-19 for youth in and from care, visit <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/covid-19-information/youth-young-adults-response-to-covid-19>

### INFO FOR RENTERS DURING COVID-19

BC has implemented a state of emergency during the COVID-19 pandemic so they can act quickly to protect people. As part of the state of emergency, some changes have been made to protect renters and landlords. The state of emergency was extended to June 9, 2020.

#### SOME KEY UPDATES:

1. **YOUR LANDLORD CAN'T EVICT YOU** (force you to move out). There are some exceptions, like criminal activity or serious damage to the property.

2. **LANDLORDS CAN'T GIVE NOTICE TO END TENANCY** for:

- Unpaid rent or utilities
- Cause (legal reasons your landlord can end your tenancy agreement under usual circumstances)
- Landlord or purchaser use (your landlord can't end your tenancy agreement so they can move in or use the unit)
- Demolition, renovation or conversion of a rental unit

3. **YOUR LANDLORD IS NOT ALLOWED TO INCREASE YOUR RENT** during the state of emergency. But they can give you notice that your rent will increase when it's over.

4. **YOU SHOULD STILL PAY YOUR RENT IF YOU CAN.** Landlords can't evict you or end your tenancy agreement during the state of emergency, but they could after the state of emergency is over if you haven't paid rent.

You can find more information on financial supports available to renters (like CERB) and the changes to the Residential Tenancy Act at: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/housing-tenancy/residential-tenancies/covid-19>

Check out the **TENANT RESOURCE AND ADVISORY CENTRE (TRAC)** to find legal support, information and resources for renters. <http://tenants.bc.ca/covid-19/>