

FACT SHEET: Discrimination in Housing facing First Nations, Métis & Inuit Tenants

ABOUT CERA

The Centre for Equality Rights in Accommodation was founded in 1987. CERA is a charitable not for profit organization that promotes human rights in housing.

DISCRIMINATION

A person may experience discrimination under the Code when they are treated unfairly, denied a benefit or excluded because of a prohibited ground under the Code.

The prohibited grounds related to housing under the Code are: race, ancestry, place of origin, citizenship, ethnic origin, creed (religion), receipt of public assistance, sexual orientation, sex (includes being pregnant, breastfeeding), gender identity, gender expression, marital status, family status, age and disability.

WHAT ARE YOUR RIGHTS?

Harassment

It is illegal for a landlord, agent of the landlord or another occupant of the same building to harass a tenant on the basis of any of the prohibited grounds including race, ancestry and creed (includes Aboriginal spirituality and practices). If another tenant is harassing you, you should inform your landlord in writing and your landlord should do something to stop it.

Traditional Practices

A landlord cannot harass or discriminate against you because you engage in traditional Aboriginal practices or customs - for example, smudging ceremonies or cooking traditional foods.

Credit History

First Nations, Métis and Inuit tenants, especially youth, may not have a credit history. A landlord should not refuse to rent to you because you have no credit history. Having no credit history is different than having a bad credit history.

Landlord References

First Nations, Métis and Inuit tenants may not have previous landlord references when moving to urban centres from reserves because of the way housing is allocated on reserve. A landlord should not refuse to rent to you because you have no previous landlord references for this reason.

Family Status

Landlords cannot not refuse to rent to you because you have children, unless the building is designated a seniors building for tenants 65 years and older. The landlord cannot refuse to rent to you because the unit is "too small" unless, by renting to you, the landlord would break local occupancy standards.

IF YOU EXPERIENCE DISCRIMINATION

Act now! Write everything down including the date, time, what was said, and who was there.

When you are looking for an apartment, bring a friend. Now you have a witness if you experience discrimination. Be sure to fill out the rental application form completely and keep a copy if possible. Remember to write down the apartment address, telephone number, landlord's contact information and details about the rent charged.



**If you've experienced discrimination in housing call CERA!
Our services are free.
We can talk to the landlord and help stop the discrimination.**

**In Toronto:
416-944-0087**

**Outside of Toronto:
1-800-263-1139**

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