

Accessibility Matters: Tenancy

Additional

Housing Grants

& Tax Programs:

-BC Hydro Energy Efficient Rebates

-BC Rehab Foundation Grant

-Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. programs

-Financial Aid for Home Modifications

-Home Adaptations for Independence

-Home Owners Grant for People with Disabilities

-Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters

Facts:

Your Rights: According to the **B.C. Human Rights Code**, no landlord is allowed to refuse to rent to a person because of that person's disabilities, age, or gender. A few exceptions apply to this rule such as +55 designated buildings.

A landlord cannot refuse to rent to a person because they receive **PWD, CPP-D** or other forms of financial government assistance.

Landlords are also required by law to make (and pay for) reasonable **accommodations** for people with disabilities such as installing ramps to get into a building. Exceptions apply if the accommodation would interfere with other tenants or prevents a landlord from providing acceptable services as a landlord.

The **B.C. Tenancy Act** contains basic information regarding your rights and responsibilities as a tenant or landlord including rules about security deposits and rent.

Finding Housing

BC Housing has several programs:

-**Supportive Housing:** for people with low-income and needing support services.

-**Subsidized Housing** : long-term housing for low-income residents in BC who can live independently (needed supports must be put in place by the renter). There are several different categories of subsidized housing some of which base rent on income. Wait times for supportive/ subsidized housing vary based on availability and need. Getting in touch with a **homeless outreach worker** may be beneficial to you to assess all your options.

To increase your chances of housing you also want to apply directly to the housing providers. You can find phone numbers & information about providers on **bchousing.org/housinglistings**.

-**Homeless Prevention Program:** provides people at risk of homelessness with temporary rental supplements and support services.

-**Assisted Living** program such as Independent Living BC (BC Housing): subsidized residences with support services for seniors and people with disabilities. Contact your doctor or case manager to discuss whether assisted living is an option for you.

Many non-profit organizations also have homeless prevention outreach workers or offer specific residential programs. See list of outreach workers on **bchousing.org**

Solutions:

- If your landlord refuses to make reasonable accommodations or discriminated against you, you can file a claim with the BC Human Rights Tribunal or contact the BC Human Rights Clinic (www.bchrc.net or toll free number: 1-855-685-6222) for assistance.
- Visit BC Housing www.bchousing.org to see whether you qualify for supportive or subsidized housing or call toll free at 1-800-257-7756. BC "Housing Listing" provides search tools for accessible units.
- Spinal Cord Injury BC's list of accessible rentals: <https://accessiblehousingbc.ca/ad-category/for-rent/>
- For Renters' Rights and Responsibilities and Renter/ Landlord disputes contact the **Residential Tenancy Branch** toll free at 1-800-663-7867
- **Vernon housing outreach worker** Kelly Denis at (250) 542-3555 #210 Turning Points Collab. Society