

# Tenant News

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## Welcome to the New BC Housing Tenant Newsletter!

**This is the first issue and is a sneak peek of what's to come.**

You can expect a newsletter four times per year – in December, March, June and September. In each issue you'll find exclusive content just for BC Housing tenants about services and supports, health and wellness tips, celebrations of community and culture, and more.

We hope you'll get involved by sending your ideas for articles, sharing pictures and stories, and joining our editorial working group (more info on that in a future issue).

The first way you can get involved is to help us find a name for the newsletter. Details about how to enter the naming contest are on the back page.

To sign up for the e-newsletter and have it delivered to your email, please visit [www.bchousing.org/tenant-newsletter](http://www.bchousing.org/tenant-newsletter).

You can reach the newsletter team at [tenantnewsletter@bchousing.org](mailto:tenantnewsletter@bchousing.org). You can also reach out to your Property Manager or Site Representative and they will pass along your information to us.

### BC Housing gratefully acknowledges...

that we live and work on the unceded traditional and ancestral homelands of hundreds of Indigenous Peoples and Nations across British Columbia, each with their own unique traditions, history and culture.



## Save Energy and Help Mitigate Climate Change

**More and more we are feeling the effects of extreme weather and climate change. Here are a few things we can all do to make our homes more comfortable, save energy, and do our part to mitigate climate change.**

- 1) Set your thermostat at no more than 21°C. Instead of turning it off when you leave the house or go to bed, turn it down to 16-17°C. This will save energy and avoid burst pipes if temperatures go below freezing.
- 2) Seal gaps around doors and windows to keep cold air out and warm air in. If you see gaps under or around doors, door or window frames, or the attic hatch, talk to your building manager for assistance.
- 3) Instead of opening windows, turn on exhaust fans at least one hour per day (the hood on top of the stove and the bathroom fan), especially when cooking or taking a shower. This helps circulate indoor air and get rid of moisture and condensation.
- 4) For your safety, make sure carbon monoxide detectors and smoke

*Have tips and tricks you would like to share?*  
*Email us at: [tenantnewsletter@bchousing.org](mailto:tenantnewsletter@bchousing.org) to let us know.*

alarms are working. Replace them before they expire, especially if you have natural gas space and/or water heaters and wood stoves.

- 5) If you buy electric devices, make sure they are Energy Star certified.
- 6) During the winter months, there isn't a lot of daylight. Using LED lights is highly recommended because they use less energy and last longer.
- 7) You can also apply to BC Hydro for free energy saving kits. For more information, visit [www.bchydro.com](http://www.bchydro.com) and simply search 'free energy saving kits'.

# Expand your potential with the BC Housing Education Awards Program

## Bursaries and awards for post-secondary education and training programs

BC Housing's Education Awards Program helps individuals pursue their educational goals and make positive changes for themselves and their families. We offer seven different awards and bursaries from \$500-\$1000 to adults and youth.

Awards & bursaries are available for different student groups:

- Students between the ages of 17-64

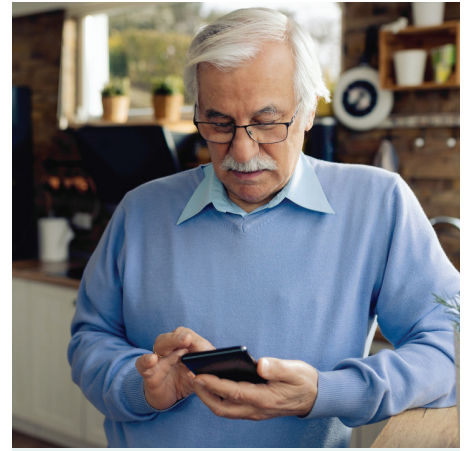


- Graduating grade 12 students
- Indigenous People
- Students pursuing educational opportunities in a health-related field
- Students pursuing opportunities in disaster management or a related field
- Youth between the ages of 18-26 who have been in foster care or who have experienced homelessness

The Education Awards Program is available to individuals residing in a household directly receiving subsidy from BC Housing, or receiving rental assistance through the Rental Assistance Program at the start of courses.

Further information and applications can be found at [bchousing.org/educationawards](http://bchousing.org/educationawards).

**Applications open January 1 and are due April 30. Apply today!**



## Important Contact Information

Sometimes things go wrong in any home. It's important to know who to get in touch with to make sure any issue is dealt with as quickly as possible. If you're having an issue, this is who you should contact:

- **Fire, ambulance or police emergencies** – Call 911
- **Gas leaks or odour** – Leave your unit immediately and call your natural gas provider. *You must also contact your Building Manager or Site Representative*
- **Other emergencies** – Floods and sewer backups, heat or electricity issues, broken glass, roof leaks, plugged toilets, lockouts, no hot water, laundry issues, etc. – *Contact your Building Manager or Site Representative*
- **General maintenance and/or repairs** – *Complete a Maintenance Request Form or contact your Building Manager or Site Representative*

## Name the Newsletter Contest!

We're looking for just the right name for this newsletter, and who better to name it than BC Housing tenants?

Send your idea to [tenantnewsletter@bchousing.org](mailto:tenantnewsletter@bchousing.org) by January 31 and enter to win a \$100 VISA gift card. If you don't have email, submit your contest entry form to your Building Manager or Site Representative and they will pass it along to the newsletter team. You can get the contest entry form from your Building Manager or Site Representative. This contest is only open to BC Housing directly managed tenants.



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The tenant newsletter is published quarterly by BC Housing for tenants in directly managed buildings. We welcome your feedback and inquiries.