

August 21, 2024

Hello,

My name is Leah Dyck and I'm a tenant residing at Summitview here in Barrie, Ont. (380 Duckworth St.). I'm writing this letter to all Barrie Municipal Non-Profit Housing Corporation (BMNPHC) and Simcoe County Housing (SCHC) Rent-Geared-to-Income (RGI) tenants who've resided at one of these properties at any time since 2008.

I was recently doing some research for 'social housing as a health detriment' (for a research study), and realized that my housing provider, the BMNPHC is "overcharging" their RGI tenant's rent, deliberately. So this is stealing. When I use this language, though, people seem to get uncomfortable with it, despite it being the correct language to use.

I have a half-hour recorded phone call between myself and the BMNPHC's CEO admitting they "over-charged" me nearly \$2,700, available for viewing on my website: www.FreshFoodWeekly.com. They only gave this money back after nine months of asking for it, and not until I threatened to tell national news outlets. Then they returned it immediately.

I've been living in public housing since 2008 and I've never received a tenant ledger, so I actually have no idea if they've returned all the "over-charged" rent. I just found out what tenant ledgers are in the last week of July 2024. Since learning about them, I've also learned that no other Rent-Geared-to-Income (RGI) tenants in all of Simcoe County have ever received a tenant ledger since at least 2008 (the properties in the BMNPHC are constantly being swapped between them and the SCHC).

When the Mayor of Barrie, Alex Nuttall was informed, his response was to participate in an interview with BarrieToday.com, and then he allowed a series of articles praising Barrie Housing for being a blessing in the community, to be published.

After speaking to the Ontario Ombudsman assigned to my case on Aug. 20th, 2024, we learned that they do not have jurisdiction over the BMNPHC or the SCHC. I asked her if, based on her experience as an investigator, the behaviour being demonstrated by the County and the City is suspicious, or unusual because, "you'd assume they'd have done something by now before letting it get this far", and her response was: "you should definitely pursue them".

I also asked her what my next step is and she says now I need a lawyer. Unfortunately, Legal Aid doesn't consider this to be an emergency and the half-hour free legal advice I received from the Law Society Referral Service was, "I can serve your housing provider for \$1,200". However, the HRTIO will assign me a lawyer eventually. I think it'll be after Aug. 29th.

Here are all the places I've contacted for help so far:

- HRTIO File #1: 2024-57438
- HRTIO File #2: 2024-57443
- On Aug. 19th, I learned that the Law Enforcement Complaints Agency (LECA) only investigates police officers.
- On Aug. 19th, 2024, I filed a complaint with Barrie Police; Reference #: 2024-94312.
- On Aug. 20th, 2024, the Ontario Ombudsman let me know that they do not have jurisdiction over the BMNPHC or the SCHC.
- The Federal Housing Advocate told me they never received my complaint/application/request for help and that they won't help either.

For a full update, visit the Fresh Food Weekly website's most recent blog post.

In my HRTO's Form 16: Request For Interim Remedy, and I've requested an interim public interest remedy, which is that the respondents pay for me to be retained to rewrite many policies in the social services sector, as well as to pay for an experienced policy-writer to help me, full-time, since I've never been trained to write policies before and I want to ensure they new proposed policies are structured properly and are valid.

The City of Barrie told the HRTO in their Form 17 Response to Request For Interim Remedy that the HRTO doesn't have the authority to grant me this interim public interest remedy request and Simcoe County accused me of trying to work for the government and told the HRTO that if I want to work for the government, then I can try to get hired the traditional way. I guess this means the respondents aren't going to claim I haven't been trying to get a job. The BMNPHC did not respond.

When I asked the HRTO's Registrar how long approximately it'll take them to make a decision regarding my request for an interim remedy, I received an automated response saying they're backlogged. According to Tribunal Watch Ontario, in May 2024, the HRTO's current "unresolved caseload rose to 9,527, amounting to a three-year backlog, based on its record of closing approximately 3,000 applications a year."

So I will keep advocating and pushing to get this case dealt with as soon as possible, because we cannot stand living like this anymore. In my last email to the HRTO, I let them know that I would like to be the named lead representative for a class action lawsuit against the respondents if that's at all possible.

Private Facebook Group: Public Housing Tenants in Simcoe County

Public Housing Tenants in Simcoe County is a Private Facebook Group for current and past tenants of the Simcoe County Housing Corporation, and the Barrie Municipal Non-Profit Housing Corporation.

The City of Barrie, Simcoe County, the Barrie Municipal Non-Profit Housing Corporation, and the Simcoe County Housing Corporation, are accused of major crimes, including fraud, and has been served by the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario (HRTO).

This private Facebook group is a place for current and past tenants to gather, connect, exchange information, ask questions, and get informed about what's going on with this matter.

Additionally, you can sign up to Fresh Food Weekly's monthly newsletter, located at the bottom of the home page: www.FreshFoodWeekly.com.

Thank you,

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