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## Changes to the Residential Tenancy Act Erode the Dignity of Tenants in Supportive Housing

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**Vancouver, B.C., January 19, 2024** – Yesterday, the provincial government [announced](#) that supportive housing providers would be exempt from certain provisions of the *Residential Tenancy Act (RTA)* that previously restricted their ability to impose guest restrictions and enter tenants’ suites without prior notice or consent. This announcement has escalated concerns by Community Legal Assistance Society (CLAS) over the continued erosion of dignity in housing for the most vulnerable tenants in B.C.

Notably, doubts persist regarding the necessity of these exemptions in achieving the proclaimed safety objectives. The *RTA* already empowers landlords to enter a rental unit in emergency situations without prior notice and allows them to restrict guests if there is a reasonable basis for doing so. The across-the-board exemptions, however, indiscriminately curtail tenants’ rights without addressing any specific, immediate concern.

“While safety in housing is paramount, the announced exemptions risk undermining the fundamental rights, dignity and autonomy of vulnerable tenants,” said Danielle Sabelli, lawyer at CLAS. “These changes effectively dismantle essential safeguards, contributing to a concerning carceral continuum within supportive housing.”

CLAS argues for a more targeted, nuanced approach to safety concerns—one that preserves the fundamental rights, dignity and autonomy of tenants living in supportive housing.

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*Community Legal Assistance Society (CLAS) is a non-profit society providing legal assistance, information, and education in B.C., and works to advance the law to address the critical needs of those who are disadvantaged or face discrimination. For further information, please see [www.clasbc.net](http://www.clasbc.net).*

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