

Policy Manual

Issues Policy

Issues Policy 11 (IS-11): Housing

Adopted by: Board of Directors

Adopted on: September 09, 2014

Summary:

The need for accessible and affordable housing is well documented across British Columbia and Kamloops. Kamloops continues to be faced with rising building costs, a lack of new rental housing construction and the conversion of rental housing to private market housing. The result of these trends has been an erosion of rental housing inventory and rising costs. With 7,000 or more students attending Thompson Rivers University per year, shortages in affordable and accessible rental housing are acutely felt by students living in Kamloops. This situation allows landlords to infringe upon the rights of tenants because those tenants have nowhere else to go.

Only through strong policy frameworks and targeted investment by municipal, provincial, and federal governments will this market gap be addressed.

Policy:

- I. The Union supports:
 - a. Extending tenants' protections under the *BC Residential Tenancy Act* to students living in residences defined by the *BC University Act*;
 - b. The construction of affordable university housing in communities with a shortage of accessible housing;
 - c. The abolition of housing policies that discriminate against students;
 - d. The abolition of barriers to non-profit, tenant-controlled, housing including exclusionary housing bylaws;
 - e. Publically funded, owned and operated student residences;
 - f. Quality, affordable, and accessible student housing including:
 - i. Fair and equitable allocation of campus residence spaces to all students;
 - ii. Full accessibility of student housing to students with diverse living requirements and needs;
- II. The Union opposes:
 - a. The administration of campus residence spaces by private firms;
 - b. Contracting out campus student residence accommodations to private hotels or other commercial facilities;

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- c. Charging students living in campus residences more than the actual cost of such accommodations.