



To President Lenton,

Dated: March 17, 2020

Re: Open Letter about York Apartments/Residence

We are writing to address an immediate issue that is the reason for distress for several students who are campus residents at York University.

Referring to the email copied below (our highlights), we do not understand why the university is considering advising resident students to leave their apartments at this point in time.

This email has caused a lot of panic at the York Apartments, which is visible in the Facebook forum as the Housing staff remains non-committal in reassuring students that they will not be evicted if they choose to stay in the residences. During such a global crisis, the university should be encouraging self-isolation and helping students who have lost employment due to the pandemic through reducing, deferring, or stopping rent collection altogether instead of creating more panic and insecurity.

We would like to remind the university administration that the residents at York Apartments and Student Housing are people with families, many who do not have alternate accommodations, many who have lost jobs during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many are international students with limited health coverages, and many are people with disabilities. This notice is indeed quite distressing for such people and resembles a soft eviction warning disguised as a survey. We need the university to take a compassionate approach during this crisis. We hope that you will consider these circumstances, and that the university will consider the fundamental human rights and dignity of these people.

Kind regards,
The YUGSA Executive Committee
The CUPE 3903 Executive Committee

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From: York Apartments Administration <apstatus@yorku.ca>

Sent: Monday, March 16, 2020 3:22:41 PM

To:

Subject: Important Residence Update

As you may be aware, all in-person exams have been cancelled and your instructors are making alternative arrangements. You will hear more from them soon. As a result of the in-person exam cancellation, we are strongly advising you to return to your permanent or family home as soon as possible. If you can leave residence this week, please do so. If you cannot return home and have extenuating circumstances, read on for the plans in place to help.

Please notify us of your plans no later than Wednesday, March 18 by completing the [Changes to Your Housing Status Form](#) after reviewing the options below.

I would like to end my lease and move out

- a. Housing & Conference Services is waiving the usual notice period should you wish to terminate your lease.
- b. When completing the online form you will be prompted to download the Agreement to Terminate a Tenancy, Form N11. Please print, sign and submit form to the Housing Office in person or send via email to apstatus@yorku.ca.
- c. Visit the York Apartments Move-out Information and Procedures for further details about the move-out procedure.

I am maintaining my current lease but have temporarily left the premises

- a. Please complete the online form so that we are aware of the occupancy status of your unit. No further action is required by you.

I am maintaining my current lease and am staying in my unit

- a. Please complete the online form so that we are aware of the occupancy status of your unit. No further action is required by you.

If you have **travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days, you must self-isolate**. Please make sure you complete the [Recent Travel Reporting Form](#).

Residents are encouraged to follow social distancing practices to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. If you're feeling unsettled or anxious, you can contact the Student Counselling and Development office at 416-736-5297 or

vvisit <http://counselling.students.yorku.ca/> for more information. Good2Talk is also available at 1-866-925-5454, Text GOOD2TALKON to 686868 or <https://good2talk.ca/>.

Please watch your email account and stay informed by visiting [York's dedicated COVID-19 website](#).

Take care of yourselves and each other,
Housing & Conference Services