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Dear Minister Eby and staff,

When you attended the Vancouver Tenants Union's Townhall event in April of this year, we asked for your ministry to release data about evictions from 2018 to present to the VTU and you agreed to do so. We are reaching out again to renew this request. This information is more important than ever, especially since yet another [study came out calling Metro Vancouver the "Eviction Capital of Canada"](#).

Compared to the access to information our tenant organizer colleagues have in the United States and other provinces like Ontario, B.C. does not make eviction data publicly accessible in any way. This severely limits our ability to advocate for and organize tenants, as it's hard to know what's going on -especially during the pandemic - unless we take it upon ourselves to ask tenants directly, [as we have done in the past](#). This is not a feasible solution, as we are a 100% volunteer-run organization without the capacity to regularly collect data across the province. In the end, any data the government has about housing in B.C. belongs to the public, especially in the middle of a housing crisis. We strongly believe that aggregated data per census track per month can and should be made available while protecting tenants' privacy.

We are aware that previous ministries responsible for housing have done yearly [reports](#) on Residential Tenancy Branch outcomes in the past because they were made public through FOI requests done by [other housing advocacy groups](#). Especially given the newly proposed legislation about new FOI application fees, it would be prudent that these reports (or at least the raw numbers) were just released publicly.

In order to get a complete picture of B.C.'s eviction data, we will continue to advocate for your government to implement mandatory RTB dispute-resolution hearings for all evictions, as is the case in Ontario. This system would serve to ensure that eviction notices without any substantive evidence do not end up in arbitration, deterring the frivolous service of eviction notices which currently serves as a common intimidation tactic. This would reverse the existing onus on tenants to dispute any and all evictions issued to them and acknowledge the existing imbalance of power between landlords and tenants and that receiving an eviction notice can be a traumatic event. This is one of the [50 recommendations](#) we submitted to the Rental Housing Taskforce in 2018.

Thank you for your attention on this matter and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

Regards,

The Vancouver Tenants Union Steering Committee