

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) Program Survey

June 4th, 2020

Key Findings & Recommended Actions:

- Enact a provincial moratorium on commercial evictions OR make the CECRA program mandatory OR take the lead from BC and enact a moratorium on commercial evictions for landlords who are eligible to apply but choose not to
- Process to apply is cumbersome, unclear, application portal has had issues and landlords are resistant to releasing their financial and other documentation
- Allow commercial businesses/tenants the right to apply for the program
- Landlords don't want to contribute 25% to the program. This amount needs to be reduced or allow landlords and tenants to negotiate the best way to cover the remaining 50%
- Reduce eligibility criteria, not all businesses have lost 70%, even 30% revenue loss is significant for most of these small margin businesses

Tenant/Small Business Key Stats

- 72% of businesses could not make all of June's rent (63% did not pay all of May's rent & 50% April's rent, per previous surveys)
- 78% of businesses feel they will not make all of July's rent
- 42% of businesses do not qualify for the Wage Subsidy; 28% do not qualify for the \$40,000 Loan; 36% do not qualify for the Rent Assistance & 11% do not qualify for any of the government programs
- Almost 70% of businesses have relied on the government loan to cover expenses
- 61% of businesses who qualify indicate their landlord has not applied for the rent assistance program
- Of those who have not applied, 62% of businesses think their landlord will not apply for the rent assistance program
- 41% of businesses who needed rent accommodation indicate their landlord did not accommodate them
- 29% of businesses are concerned about being locked-out (down from 43.9% in May's survey)

Landlord Key Stats

- 95% of landlords did not receive all of June's rent (81% did not receive all of May's rent & 74% April's rent, per previous surveys)
- 85% of landlords feel they will not receive all of July's rent
- 71% of landlords do not qualify for the Wage Subsidy; 63% do not qualify for the \$40,000 Loan; 28% do not qualify for the Rent Assistance & 14% do not qualify for any of the programs
- Less than 40% of landlords are benefiting from the available financial programs
- 52% of landlords who qualify indicate they have not applied for the rent assistance program
- Of those who have not applied, 33% of landlords indicate they do not plan to apply for the rent assistance program