



**FCJ Refugee Centre**

*Walking With Uprooted People*

# Housing Information Session: Tips and Tools

By Jacqueline Cortés  
September 2023

This presentation is  
possible thanks to  
the support of:



**The Law  
Foundation  
of Ontario**



## Land Acknowledgement

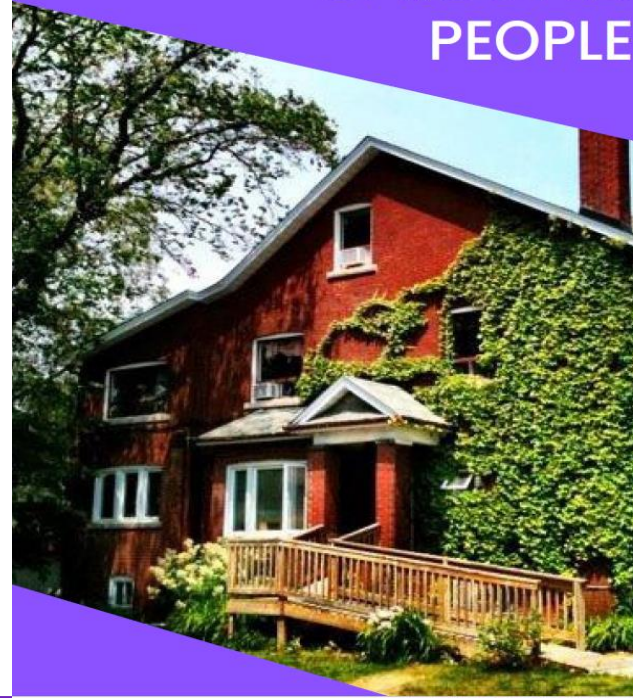
The land we are standing on today is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit, and the Williams Treaty signed with multiple Mississaugas and Chippewa bands.

## Who We Are

- Non-profit organization that serves refugees and others at risk due to their immigration status...

## Who We Serve?

- On average more than 5,000 people contact the Centre every year seeking assistance from around the world.







## FCJ Refugee Centre Services

**SETTLEMENT & INTEGRATION**

- Shelter for women & children
- Refugee Housing Hub
- Women's services
- Food distribution
- English Classes
- Clinic
- Youth
- Access to Education

**IMMIGRATION SUPPORT**

- Refugee process
- Immigration orientation
- PRRA (risk assessment)
- Refugee appeal
- H&C (Humanitarian & Compassionate App.)
- Sponsorship
- Work permit
- Etc.

**ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

- Migrants Workers Mobile Clinic
- Direct services to trafficked persons
- Migrant Women's Counter Trafficking Alliance
- Youth Alliance Against HT

**PUBLIC EDUCATION & NETWORKING**

- Webinars & training sessions
- Borderless Voices podcast
- YouTube channel
- Resources
- Country research
- Newsletter & annual reports

**FCJ REFUGEE CENTRE**

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📺 FCJ Refugee Centre

**WWW.FCJREFUGEECENTRE.ORG**

# Housing - Looking for rent without references

- Resume
- Rental agreement lease
- FCJ Refugee Centre - Letter of reference
- Volunteer work

**Emma Robinson**

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**PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY**  
Successful sales professional with 10+ years experience in large-scale food and retail environments. Implement cost control measures to ensure operations remain within company targets. Maximize bottom-line performance through P&L, merchandising, staff management, loss control and inventory management initiatives.

**CONTACT INFORMATION**  
E: [example@live.com](mailto:example@live.com)  
C: 781-669-9189  
A: 123 Main Street, San Francisco, CA 94122

**WORK EXPERIENCE**

**Verizon Wireless - District Manager**  
San Francisco, CA • 09/2009 - Current

- Directed recruitment/training/staff development initiatives to maximize productivity and revenue potential through development of a sales team.
- Successfully increased employee retention by creating a positive work environment in 18 stores.
- Administered daily operations to ensure policies were adhered to and understood by sales staff.
- Cultivated strong business relationships with customers to drive business development.
- Planned and executed floor merchandising initiatives in collaboration with merchandise management.
- Ensure store is prepared for internal audits through analysis/preparation of quality assurance and inventory statistics.

**Walgreen, Inc. - Operation Manager**  
San Francisco, CA • 08/1997 - 09/2009

- Oversee opening/closing operations for a \$4 million annual revenue store in compliance with current company policies/procedures.
- Managed operational costs by spearheading inventory control and leading shipping department activities as well as setting wage targets.
- Administered financial processes including accounts payable/accounts receivable, managing an accounting office and updating customer service files.

**EDUCATION**  
San Francisco State University  
San Francisco, CA • 09/2009 - Current

- Master of Business Administration: Operations Management Speech and Communication, Sociology and Psychology

**SKILLS**

- Executive team leadership
- Inventory report generation
- Client/Vendor relations
- Market analysis
- Budgeting and financing
- Project management
- Team liaison
- Strong verbal communication

**CERTIFICATIONS**  
Certified Retail District Manager  
Verizon, Inc. • 07/2009

To who it may concern,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am the landlord of the rental unit at \_\_\_\_\_.

I am renting a 1 bedroom unit to \_\_\_\_\_ that will start \_\_\_\_\_. The rent amount is month by month for a total of \_\_\_\_\_. Please if you have any question do not hesitate to reach out at \_\_\_\_\_.

Sincerely,

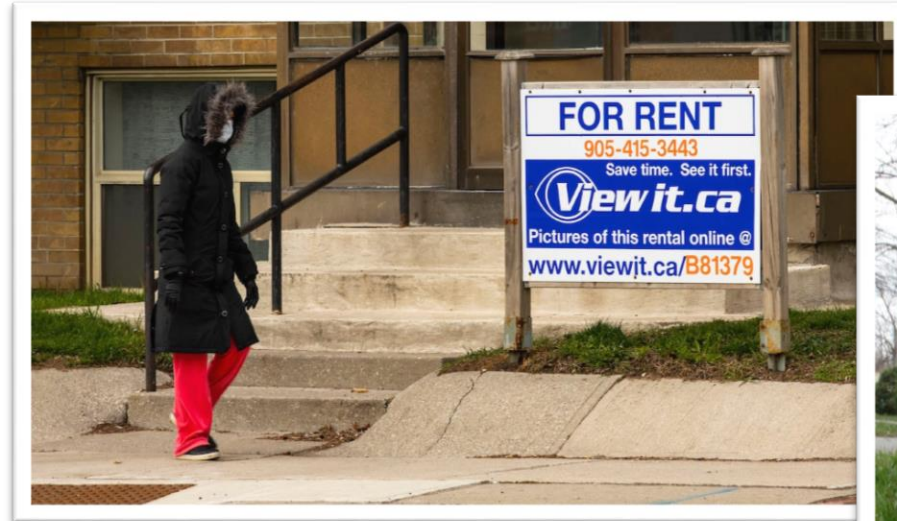
Landlord name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Where to look for housing

- Kijiji.ca
- Viewwit.ca
- Facebook
- Marketplace
- Groups
- Newspaper



Visit the place in person, bring all the above information with you and speak to your landlord.



## Community outreach

- That landlord may be from your community, same country, or congregation, and may consider renting their unit to you.

- ❖ Church
- ❖ School
- ❖ Friends
- ❖ Other community organizations
- ❖ Social events within your community



- Be responsible while in the units which will be taking care of it (check the rules in Province of Ontario). Visit <https://www.cleo.on.ca/en/resources-and-publications?legalTopic=1213&language=&format=pdf>



**CLEO**

Community Legal Education Ontario  
Éducation juridique communautaire Ontario

cleo.on.ca | stepstojustice.ca | justicepasapas.ca



## Put Waste in its Place

### Recycling

- Rinse to remove food, liquid, product



### Garbage

- Please do not contaminate recycling or the Green Bin with these items; these belong in garbage.



### Green Bin

- Take food items out of plastic bags/wrap
- Do not use biodegradable bags



#### Tips

- This poster is a quick reference. Not everything that goes in recycling or garbage is listed here.
- Not sure where something goes? Check: Toronto Recycling Guide or **Waste Wizard** (toronto.ca/recycle) • Call 311.
- Our website translates information into different languages (toronto.ca/recycle).

Thanks for doing it right!

Credit: Nathan Rogers concept and selected photos

## Things Landlords Aren't Allowed to Do

- Discriminate against tenants
- Enter without proper notice

Unjustifiably raise the rent

Unlawfully evict tenants





## How to secure housing support from Ontario Works

- Ontario Works: Social assistance is the financial support that will help you with the financial support month to month until you find or receive your work permit or you secure a job in order for you to have a financial stability.



Photo by Rick / Flickr



## ONTARIO WORKS Toronto Employment and Social Services MAXIMUM FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE RATES (October 2018)

- Ontario Works has a established payments chart to pay you accordingly, based on if you are a single person, a couple, a family or you have a disability. Yo can find the information in the chart on this page.

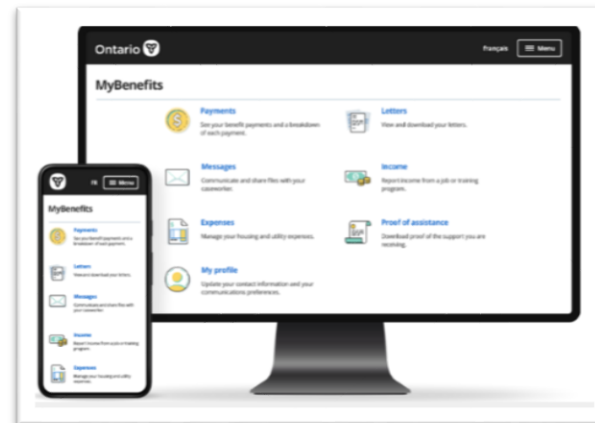
Case Examples (Partial list only)	Basic Allowance	Maximum Shelter Allowance (Rent)	Total
Single	\$343	\$390	<b>\$733</b>
2 Adults	\$494	\$642	<b>\$1,136</b>
1 adult/1 child (0-17yrs)	\$360	\$642	<b>\$1,002</b>
1 adult/1 dependent adult (18 and over)	\$623	\$642	<b>\$1,265</b>
1 adult/2 children (0-17yrs)	\$360	\$697	<b>\$1,057</b>
1 adult/1 child and 1 dependent adult	\$623	\$697	<b>\$1,320</b>
1 adult/2 dependent adults	\$781	\$697	<b>\$1,478</b>
2 adults/1 child	\$494	\$697	<b>\$1,191</b>
2 adults/1 child	\$652	\$697	<b>\$1,349</b>
2 adults/2 children	\$494	\$756	<b>\$1,250</b>
2 adults/1 child & 1 dependent adult	\$652	\$756	<b>\$1,408</b>
2 adults/2 dependent adults	\$826	\$756	<b>\$1,582</b>
For each additional dependent:	Add 0 if the child is less than 17 years of age	Shelter allowance for total of 5 individuals is \$815	
	Add \$175 if the dependent adult is 18 years of age or over	Shelter allowance for 6 or more individuals is \$844	

## You have different ways to send the rental information to your social worker

**Option 1** - Call your social worker. Usually their number starts with 416 397 ... Also, have your member ID number. It usually starts with 316 000 000, or 317 000 000.

It's also very important for you to send your rent letter by MyBenefit account. You can find it as follows;  
<https://mybenefits.mcass.gov.on.ca/auth/login>

**Option 2** - If you are able, go to their office. If you have applied with our address (208 Oakwood Ave), the office is at 700 Lawrence Square.





## Beware/Cautions in your search

- Be aware of false advertisements of apartments. Some listings online are not really available for rent.
- If someone is asking you for deposit money without offering you a lease or viewing, be cautious. This could be spam.
- Be cautious if you can only contact the person through email, you should be speaking on the phone before going to see a place.
- Remember, most of apartment buildings in Toronto are managed by companies and therefore you should be able to contact them through supervisor.



## Housing Stabilization Fund (OW)

- Housing stabilization fund includes last month's rent, moving, rental arrears supports, etc
- The maximum annual HSF entitlement based on family size




**FCJ Refugee Centre**

*Walking With Uprooted People*

# Thank you

## Contact Us

 416-469-9754

 [info@fcjrefugeecentre.org](mailto:info@fcjrefugeecentre.org)

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