



Federation of Rental-housing Providers of Ontario

OEB RP 2004 – 0166

Unpaid Electricity Charges

August 24, 2004





CLARIFYING LIABILITY

- ◆ FRPO supports changes to the DSC clarifying it is only the person who contracts for service with the LDC is liable for payment.
- ◆ FRPO opposes the notion of holding a third party liable or creating a deferral account as temporary measure.
- ◆ Landlords are non-privileged to the account and do not have authorization to pursue actions that will allow them to recoup the tenants hydro arrears.



CLARIFYING LIABILITY

- ◆ The OEB must clearly outline what is to be included in reconnection costs and not have any additional costs which were as a result of a disconnection for non-payment left owing by any party other than the offending party.
- ◆ FRPO believes that if the individual contracting for service is liable for payment it will encourage energy conservation and reduce consumption.
- ◆ FRPO supports that the offender must bear the complete cost of their actions, including all costs associated with energy, service disconnection and any additional reconnection costs.



GROW HOUSE ISSUE

- ◆ FRPO is in agreement that more should be done in this area by all parties to eliminate this criminal activity.
- ◆ FRPO is disappointed with the perception that Landlords are complicit in terms of “grow-ops”. Illegal activities should be pursued in a criminal court. These operations are very dangerous for our communities and costly for the owner of the rental property.
- ◆ Residential Property Owners are heavily governed by the Provincial Government and have limited access to tenant information.



ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY DEPOSIT POLICIES

- ◆ FRPO supports rules that clarify conditions of service regarding payment of security deposits.
- ◆ FRPO understands that a LDC considers non-payment of a security deposit as a reason to refuse to connect; however, FRPO opposes the right of an LDC to consider the non-payment of a security deposit as a reason to refuse to continue to connect a customer.
- ◆ The OEB must clearly outline what is to be included in the disconnection and reconnection costs due to non-payment of account.



ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY DEPOSIT POLICIES



- ◆ In bulk metered buildings where the property owner enters into an agreement with the LDC, the security deposits should be based on financial criteria that takes into account a good payment history of the individual or corporation at a provincial level, not just within the LDC franchise area.



MECHANISM TO TRACK UNPAID CHARGES

- ◆ FRPO believes more can be done to track down bad debtors.
- ◆ Introduce a credit agency or central registry that enables the tracking of bad debtors by their Social Insurance Number.
- ◆ FRPO endorses clear, consistent and fair policies to prevent and track down bad debtors in connection with hydro arrears.



THANK YOU!