

Housing Division Notice

Date: November 16, 2007

HDN# 2007 - 126

This applicable legislation/policy is to be implemented by the housing provider(s) under the following programs:

Please note, if your program is **not checked**, this change is **not applicable** to your project.

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Federal Non-Profit Housing Program

Private Non-Profit Housing Program

Co-operative Non-Profit Housing Program

Municipal Non-Profit Housing Program (Pre-1986)

Local Housing Corporation

Subject: TRACKING OF FEDERAL HOUSING PROVIDERS' FORMER TENANT RENT ARREARS

Background:

HDN# 2004 – 80 outlined the process to manage and maintain an arrears data base and for Housing Providers to provide the information to the Housing Access Centre (HAC).

HDN# 2006 – 106 provided Housing Providers with the “Arrears Reporting Form for Housing Access Centre” in which to submit their monthly former tenant/member arrears to the HAC.

The City of London is participating in a new province-wide arrears data base. This program provides HAC with access to information from across the province on all social housing past/former tenant arrears. This information is used to determine eligibility for households applying for social housing.

With recent changes to the *Social Housing Reform Act*, Ontario Regulation 298/01, applicants cannot be considered for rent-geared-to-income (RGI) assisted housing if a member of the household owes arrears with respect to a previous tenancy in **any** housing project under **any** housing program, including market and /or RGI rent arrears or money owed due to damage caused by a member of the household.

If it is determined that an applicant has past arrears, a repayment agreement is required to be completed with the Housing Provider and the arrears are required to be paid in full prior to being offered housing.

Since Federal Housing Providers are part of a government funded housing program, it is very important that the HAC be advised of any former tenant arrears that they experience.

Action Required:

Federal Housing Providers to contact the Housing Access Centre to advise of former tenant arrears.

Louise Stevens
Director, Municipal Housing