How To Find A Home To Rent!

Step 1: Search on your own through various online and offline methods:
- You can explore sites like ViewIt.ca and Condos.ca to get an idea of the rent in different neighbourhoods. To find better deals, use sites/apps like:
  - Kijiji
  - Facebook Marketplace
  - Zumper
  - Padmapper.

Step 2: Identify the neighbourhood
- Identify the neighbourhood where you would like to live. Some factors that you should consider while researching neighbourhoods are:
  - Walk and transit scores
  - Proximity to campus
  - Grocery stores
  - Transportation
  - Shopping malls
  - Crime rates and Noise levels

Step 3: Decide on the type of accommodation
- Apartment
- Condo
- Rooming House
- House

Step 4: Look for listings that meet your criteria
- As you look for suitable accommodation, use filters online to narrow the options or if using a realtor, be sure to convey your preferences.

Step 5: Prepare essential documents
- To be able to rent a place, you will have to provide certain documents to prove that you can pay the rent on time and can afford the space.
- Usually, Landlords may ask for:
  - Employment Letter
  - Credit Report
  - References (from friends or family or previous landlords in Canada)
  - Bank Statements

Step 6: Sign the lease agreement
- A lease is a document that summarizes your relationship with the landlord. It outlines the rent you’ll pay and mentions the dates of your lease, along with other rules (pertaining to things like pets and smoking), what happens at the end of your lease, etc.

Step 7: Set up the transfer of any utilities
- Before you move into your new place, some utilities like hydro (electricity) may need to be transferred to your name from the past tenants or from the landlord.

Step 8: Move in
- Once you’ve signed the lease, received the keys, and transferred the utilities, it’s time to move in! Check with your landlord and/or building management for any additional paperwork you may have to fill out after moving in.

Tips to Consider When Finding a Home

- When you visit a potential accommodation, take pictures to ensure you have a record of any damages or visible issues this will be useful while negotiating the rent with the landlord.
- We suggest using the Area Vibes website to learn more about your city and the potential neighbourhood you are moving into.