Amend the Residential Tenancy Act (and related Acts) to end “no pets” policies in BC

To the Honourable the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia, in Legislature Assembled:

The petition of the undersigned, **Pets OK BC**, of the City of Vancouver, states that: In B.C., it is widely acknowledged that we are experiencing an unprecedented crisis of affordable housing. Amidst historic low vacancy rates, many B.C. residents have very few options when it comes to seeking a place to live. Compounding this problem for residents who have pets is an additional problem: finding pet-friendly housing. As a result, many tenants end up surrendering or abandoning their pets. The BC SPCA reports that 8,000 animals were abandoned or surrendered in 2016. Surrendered pets alone make up nearly a third of all animals taken in by shelters (CFHS 2014 Animal Shelter Statistics). The existing Residential Tenancy Act (and related Acts) permits property owners to implement "no pets" policies. The BC SPCA reports that “no pets” policies are the leading reason for pet surrender. Ontario long ago prohibited “no pets” policies in rental units, and the law has served Ontario residents well for over two decades.

Your petitioners respectfully request that the Honourable House introduce and pass a motion urging the government to *repeal and replace* Sections 18 (1) (2) and (3) of the *Residential Tenancy Act*, S.B.C. 2002, c.78, Sections 18 (1) and (2) of the *Manufactured Home Park Tenancy Act*, S.B.C. 2002, c.77, Section 123 (1) of the *Strata Property Act*, S.B.C. 1998, c. 43, and *repeal* Section 3(4) of the Schedule of Standard Bylaws in the *Strata Property Act*, S.B.C. 1998, c. 43, to allow tenants of all of these types of properties to keep pets in their homes.

Dated 5th day of January, 2017.

Name	Address	Signature