Tribunal administratif du logement
Québec

www.tal.gouv.qc.ca
Montréal area: 514 873-BAIL*
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*An automated information service is available 24/7

LEASE of a Dwelling

TRIBUNAL ADMINISTRATIF DU LOGEMENT MANDATORY FORM | TWO COPIES

This document incorporates legal and regulatory updates related to your lease. It allows you to understand the adjustments required in order to make commitments that comply with current requirements. As a result, these clauses replace those in the paper form currently in circulation.

F RESTRICTIONS ON THE RIGHT TO HAVE THE RENT FIXED AND THE LEASE MODIFIED (art. 1955 C.C.Q.)

The lessor and the lessee may not apply to the Tribunal administratif du logement for the fixing of the rent or for the modification of another condition of the lease if one of the following situations applies:

☐ The dwelling is located in an immovable erected five years ago or less.

The immovable became ready for habitation on |_____|_____|_____|.
Day Month Year

OR

☐ The dwelling is located in an immovable whose use for residential purposes results from a change of destination that was made five years ago or less.

The immovable became ready for habitation on |_____|_____|_____|.
Day Month Year

Indicate the maximum rent that the lessor may impose on the lessee in the five years following the date on which the immovable is ready for its intended use:
$ _____ .

However, the Tribunal may rule on any other application concerning the lease (e.g. decrease in rent).

If one of the two boxes is checked off, the five-year period has not yet expired and, where required, the lessor has indicated the maximum rent that may be imposed, the lessee who refuses a lease modification requested by the lessor, such as an increase in the rent, **must vacate** the dwelling upon termination of the lease (particulars Nos. 39 and 41).

If neither of the two boxes is checked off or if one box is checked off but the lessor omitted to indicate the maximum rent that may be imposed where so required, the lease is renewed for the lessee who refuses a lease modification requested by the lessor and wishes to continue to live in the dwelling. The lessor may apply to the Tribunal administratif du logement to have the conditions of the lease fixed for the purposes of its renewal (particulars Nos. 41 and 42).

These rules do not apply to a dwelling situated in a private seniors' residence (or in another lodging facility where services of a personal nature provided to the lessee are provided to a senior) that is the subject of a change of destination while remaining offered for dwelling purposes (particular No. 4.1).

G NOTICE TO A NEW LESSEE OR A SUBLESSEE (arts. 1896, 1950 and 1955.1 C.C.Q.)

Mandatory notice to be given by the lessor at the time the lease or sublease is entered into, except if one of the restrictions on the right to have the rent fixed and the lease modified applies (Section F).

Select the situation that applies:

☐ **(1)** I hereby notify you that the lowest rent paid for your dwelling in the twelve months prior to the beginning of your lease, or the rent fixed by the Tribunal administratif du logement during that period, was $ _____ .

☐ Per month ☐ Per week ☐ Other _____

OR

☐ **(2)** I hereby notify you that no rent has been paid for your dwelling during the twelve months prior to the beginning of your lease. The last rent was paid on |_____|_____|_____|
Day Month Year
in the amount of $ _____ .

☐ Per month ☐ Per week ☐ Other _____

OR

☐ **(3)** The dwelling was situated in a private seniors' residence (or in another lodging facility providing services of a personal nature to the lessee) and was the subject of a change of destination while remaining offered for dwelling purposes.
The amount of rent charged under the previous lease was: $ _____ .

☐ Per month ☐ Per week ☐ Other _____

If situation (1) or (3) applies, indicate if the leased dwelling the services offered by the lessor and the conditions of the lease are the same.

☐ Yes ☐ No

If **situation (1)** applies and if the new lessee or the sublessee pays a rent higher that that declared in the notice, he or she may, within 10 days after the date the lease is entered into, apply to the Tribunal administratif du logement to have the rent fixed.

If the lessor did not give such notice at the time the lease or sublease was entered into, the new lessee or the sublessee may, within two months after the beginning of the lease, apply to the Tribunal administratif du logement to have his or her rent fixed.

The new lessee or the sublessee may also make such application within two months after the day he or she becomes aware of a false statement in the notice.

Where **situation (1)** or **(2)** applies, if the lessor makes a misrepresentation or knowingly fails to give notice, the lessee may demand that the lessor be condemned to pay punitive damages.

If **situation (3)** applies, the rent stipulated in the first lease entered into following the change must correspond to the rent that was charged under the previous lease, less the part of the rent relating to the cost of the services, including services of a personal nature provided to the lessee, accessories, dependencies and other benefits that will no longer be provided under the new lease. A new lessee who considers that the rent charged does not comply with the above may, within one month after entering into the lease, file an application to have the rent fixed by the Tribunal.

G NOTICE TO A NEW LESSEE OR A SUBLESSEE (arts. 1896, 1950 and 1955.1 C.C.Q.) (*cont.*)

If the "No" box is checked off, indicate the modifications made (withdrawal of a service or addition of a service) and specify the cost of each added or withdrawn service if applicable:

Signature of lessor — Day Month Year — Signature of lessee — Day Month Year

Signature of lessor — Day Month Year — Signature of lessee — Day Month Year

H SIGNATURES

Signature of lessor — Day Month Year — Signature of lessee — Day Month Year

Signature of lessor — Day Month Year — Signature of lessee — Day Month Year

Any other person who signs the lease must clearly indicate in what capacity he or she is doing so (e.g. another lessee, surety) **(particular 12).**

Name (write legibly) — Signature — Capacity

Address of signatory — Day Month Year

Name (write legibly) — Signature — Capacity

Address of signatory — Day Month Year

I NOTICE OF FAMILY RESIDENCE (arts. 403, 521.6 and 521.24 C.C.Q.)

A lessee who is **married**, **in a civil union** or **in a parental union** may not, without the written consent of his or her spouse, sublease his or her dwelling, assign the lease or terminate the lease where the lessor has been notified, by either of the spouses, that the dwelling leased is used as the family residence.

Notice to lessor

I hereby declare that I am **married**, **in a civil union** or **in a parental union** with _____ .
Name of spouse

I hereby notify you that the dwelling covered by the lease will be used as the family residence.

Signature of lessee or lessee's spouse — Day Month Year

PARTICULARS

In the case of differences between this document and the laws that apply to dwellings, the laws take priority.

GENERAL INFORMATION

These particulars describe most of the rights and obligations of lessors and lessees. They summarize the essential points of the law concerning leases, i.e. articles 1851 to 1978.4 of the *Civil Code of Québec* (C.C.Q.).

The examples given in the particulars are provided for information purposes and are used to illustrate a rule. To find out the other obligations to which the parties to a lease may be subject, please refer to the *Civil Code of Québec*. No right may be exercised with the intent of injuring another or in an excessive and unreasonable manner that is contrary to the requirements of good faith (arts. 6, 7 and 1375 C.C.Q.).

The particulars apply to any premises leased for residential purposes, as well as to the services, accessories and dependencies attached to the dwelling, whether or not they are included in the lease of the dwelling or in another lease. Some exceptions apply (arts. 1892 and 1892.1 C.C.Q.).

Except if the size of the dwelling justifies it, a lessor may not refuse to enter into a lease with a person or to maintain the person in his or her rights, or impose more onerous conditions on the person for the sole reason that the person is pregnant or has one or several children. Nor can he or she so act for the sole reason that the person has exercised his or her rights under the chapter entitled "Lease" of the *Civil Code of Québec* or under the *Act respecting the Administrative Housing Tribunal* (art. 1899 C.C.Q.).

No person may harass a lessee in such a manner as to limit the lessee's right to peaceable enjoyment of the premises or to induce him or her to leave the dwelling. In case of a violation, punitive damages may be claimed (art. 1902 C.C.Q.).

Any non-performance of an obligation by a party entitles the other party to pursue certain remedies before a tribunal, generally the Tribunal administratif du logement. These remedies concern, for example, the performance of an obligation, reduction of the rent, resiliation of the lease, damages and, in certain cases, punitive damages.

Charter of human rights and freedoms

These rights and obligations shall be exercised in compliance with the rights recognized by the Charter, which prescribes, among other things, that every person has a right to respect for his or her private life, that every person has a right to the peaceful enjoyment and free disposition of his or her property, except to the extent provided by law, and that a person's home is inviolable.

The Charter also prohibits any discrimination and harassment based on race, colour, sex, gender identity or expression, pregnancy, sexual orientation, civil status, age, except as provided by law, religion, political convictions, language, ethnic or national origin, social condition, a handicap or the use of any means to palliate a handicap. The Charter also protects seniors and handicapped persons against any form of exploitation.

Any person who is a victim of discrimination or harassment for one of those reasons may file a complaint with the Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse.

Access to documents and protection of personal information

If the lessor is a public body, he or she shall comply with the prescriptions of the *Act respecting Access to documents held by public bodies and the Protection of personal information*. Otherwise, the lessor shall comply with the prescriptions of the *Act respecting the Protection of personal information in the private sector.*

Other leases and Schedule 6

Special rules apply to the lease of a dwelling in low-rental housing, the lease of a dwelling intended for a person pursuing studies, the lease of land intended for the installation of a mobile home and the lease of a dwelling in a cooperative.

If the lease includes services in addition to those indicated on this form, including services of a personal nature provided to the lessee, Schedule 6 to the lease, entitled Services offered to the lessee by the lessor, must be completed.

ENTERING INTO THE LEASE

Language of the lease and of the by-laws of the immovable

1. The lease and the by-laws of the immovable shall be drawn up in French. However, the lessor and the lessee may expressly agree to use another language (art. 1897 C.C.Q.).

Clauses of the lease

2. The lessor and the lessee may agree on various clauses, but they may not disregard the provisions of public order by means of a clause in the lease.

The legal rules contained in particulars Nos. 13, 14 and 52 to 54 are suppletive, i.e. they apply if the parties do not decide otherwise.

3. Pursuant to article 1893 of the *Civil Code of Québec*, clauses that are inconsistent with articles 1868 to 1872, 1875, 1876, 1883 and 1892 to 2000 of the Code are without effect.

For instance, no one may, in the lease:

- waive his or her right to maintain occupancy (art. 1936 C.C.Q.);
- waive his or her right to sublease the dwelling or to assign the lease (art. 1870 C.C.Q.).

A person may not release himself or herself from the obligation to give notice (art. 1898 C.C.Q.).

The following clauses are also without effect:

- a clause limiting the liability of the lessor or releasing the lessor from an obligation (art. 1900 C.C.Q.);
- a clause that renders the lessee liable for damage caused without the lessee's fault (art. 1900 C.C.Q.);
- a clause that modifies the rights of the lessee by reason of an increase in the number of occupants, unless the size of the dwelling warrants it (art. 1900 C.C.Q.);
- a clause providing for an adjustment of the rent in a lease with a term of 12 months or less (art. 1906 C.C.Q.);
- a clause in a lease with a term of more than 12 months providing for an adjustment of the rent during the first 12 months of the lease or more than once during each 12-month period (art. 1906 C.C.Q.);
- a clause whereby the lessee acknowledges that the dwelling is in good habitable condition (art. 1910 C.C.Q.);
- a clause providing for the total payment of the rent if the lessee fails to pay an instalment (art. 1905 C.C.Q.);
- a clause limiting the right of the lessee to purchase property or obtain services from such persons as the lessee chooses, and on such terms and conditions as he or she sees fit (art. 1900 C.C.Q.).

4. The lessee may apply to the Tribunal administratif du logement to have a clause in the lease recognized as abusive, in which case the clause may be cancelled or the obligation arising from it may be reduced (art. 1901 C.C.Q.).

Change of destination of a dwelling where services of a personal nature are provided to seniors

4.1 Where a dwelling situated in a private seniors' residence (or in another lodging facility where services of a personal nature provided to the lessee are provided to seniors) is the subject of a change of destination while remaining offered for dwelling purposes, the rent stipulated in the first lease entered into following the change must correspond to the rent that was charged under the previous lease, less the part of the rent relating to the cost of the services, including services of a personal nature, accessories, dependencies and other benefits that will no longer be provided under the new lease. The lessor may nevertheless adjust the rent according to the criteria prescribed by the regulations concerning the fixing of rent.

The lessor must, upon entering into the first lease following the change of destination, give the new lessee a notice indicating the rent charged under the previous lease and the services, accessories, dependencies and other benefits provided under the previous lease that will no longer be provided, as well as the cost of each of them.

A new lessee who considers that the rent charged is not in conformity may, within one month after entering into the lease, file an application to have the rent fixed by the court. Such an application must be filed within two months after the beginning of the lease if the lessee did not receive the notice. If the lessor gave a notice containing a misrepresentation, the lessee must file the application within two months after becoming aware of that fact (art. 1955.1 C.C.Q.).

RIGHT TO MAINTAIN OCCUPANCY

5. The lessee, excluding a sublessee (art. 1940 C.C.Q.), has a **personal right to maintain occupancy in his or her dwelling** (art. 1936 C.C.Q.).

The lessee may be evicted from his or her dwelling only in certain cases provided for by law, including the repossession of the dwelling, eviction and the resiliation of the lease by the lessor.

In addition, the lessor may give notice that the lease is not being renewed where the lessee has subleased the dwelling for more than 12 months and where the lessee lived alone and has died (art. 1944 C.C.Q.).

6. The right to maintain occupancy may be extended to certain persons where cohabitation with the lessee ceases or where the lessee dies, provided that those persons comply with the formalities provided for by law (art. 1938 C.C.Q.).

However, those persons are not considered to be new lessees (art. 1951 C.C.Q.).

New lessor

7. The new lessor of an immovable is bound to respect the lease of the lessee. The lease is continued and may be renewed in the same manner as any other lease (art. 1937 C.C.Q.).

8. Where the lessee has not been personally informed of the name and address of the new lessor or of the person to whom he or she owes payment of the rent, the lessee may, with the authorization of the Tribunal administratif du logement, deposit the rent with it (art. 1908 C.C.Q.).

Death

9. A lease is not terminated by the death of the lessor or the lessee (art. 1884 C.C.Q.).

A person who was living with the lessee at the time of the lessee's death may become the lessee if he or she continues to occupy the dwelling and gives notice to that effect in writing to the lessor within two months after the death. Otherwise, the liquidator of the succession or, if there is no liquidator, an heir may, in the month that follows the expiry of the two-month period, terminate the lease by giving notice of one month to that effect to the lessor.

If no one was living with the lessee at the time of his or her death, the liquidator of the succession or, if there is no liquidator, an heir may resiliate the lease by giving the lessor two months' notice within six months after the death. The resiliation takes effect before the two-month period expires if the liquidator or the heir and the lessor so agree or when the dwelling is re-leased by the lessor during that same period.

In all cases, if the lessee received services of a personal nature, whether or not he or she lived alone, the liquidator, the heir or, where applicable, the person who lived in the dwelling with the lessee is only required to pay that part of the rent that relates to the services that were provided to the lessee during his or her lifetime (arts. 1938 and 1939 C.C.Q.).

Non-payment of rent

10. Non-payment of rent entitles the lessor to apply to the Tribunal for an order forcing the lessee to pay it. If the lessee is over three weeks late in paying the rent, the lessor may obtain the resiliation of the lease and the eviction of the lessee.

Frequent late payment of the rent may also warrant the resiliation of the lease if the lessor suffers serious prejudice as a result (arts. 1863 and 1971 C.C.Q.).

LIABILITY OF SPOUSES AND CO-LESSEES

Liability of persons who are married or in a civil union

11. A married or civil union spouse who rents a dwelling for the current needs of the family also binds the other spouse for the whole, if they are not separated from bed and board, unless the other spouse has previously informed the lessor of his or her unwillingness to be bound for the debt (arts. 397 and 521.6 C.C.Q.).

Liability of co-lessees and surety

12. If the lease is signed by more than one lessee, the lessees are jointly liable for the obligations arising out of the lease, i.e. each of them is liable for his or her own share only (art. 1518 C.C.Q.).

However, the co-lessees and the lessor may agree that the liability will be solidary. In such case, each lessee may be held liable for all the obligations of the lease (art. 1523 C.C.Q.).

Solidarity between co-lessees is not presumed. It exists only where it is expressly stipulated in the lease (art. 1525 C.C.Q.).

Suretyship securing the performance of the obligations of the lessee does not extend to the renewal of the lease, unless otherwise provided between the parties (art. 1881 C.C.Q.). The solidary nature of the surety may be expressly stipulated in the lease (arts. 1525 and 2352 C.C.Q.).

ENJOYMENT OF PREMISES

13. The lessor shall provide the lessee with peaceable enjoyment of the leased property throughout the term of the lease (art. 1854 1st par. C.C.Q.).

14. The lessee shall, throughout the term of the lease, use the leased property "with prudence and diligence", i.e. he or she must use it in a reasonable fashion (art. 1855 C.C.Q.).

15. The lessee may not, without the consent of the lessor, use or keep in the dwelling a substance that constitutes a risk of fire or explosion and that would lead to an increase in the insurance premiums of the lessor (art. 1919 C.C.Q.).

16. The occupants of a dwelling shall be of such a number as to allow each of them to live in normal conditions of comfort and sanitation (art. 1920 C.C.Q.).

17. The lessee and the persons he or she allows to use or to have access to the dwelling shall act in such a way as not to disturb the normal enjoyment of the other lessees (art. 1860 C.C.Q.).

18. During the term of the lease, the lessor and the lessee may not change the form or destination of the dwelling (art. 1856 C.C.Q.).

DWELLING MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS

Obligation of maintenance

19. The lessor is bound to warrant the lessee that the dwelling may be used for the purpose for which it was leased and to maintain the dwelling for that purpose throughout the term of the lease (art. 1854 2nd par. C.C.Q.).

20. The lessee shall keep the dwelling in clean condition. Where the lessor carries out work in the dwelling, he or she shall restore it to clean condition (art. 1911 C.C.Q.).

21. A lessee who becomes aware of a defect or substantial deterioration of the dwelling shall inform the lessor within a reasonable time (art. 1866 C.C.Q.).

22. The statutes and regulations respecting the safety, sanitation, maintenance or habitability of an immovable shall be considered as obligations under the lease (art. 1912 C.C.Q.).

Dwelling unfit for habitation

23. A lessor may not offer a dwelling that is unfit for habitation, i.e. if it is in such a condition as to be a serious danger to the health or safety of its occupants or the public. The lessee may refuse to take possession of such a dwelling. In such case, the lease is resiliated automatically (arts. 1913 and 1914 C.C.Q.).

24. The lessee may abandon the dwelling if it becomes unfit for habitation. In such case, he or she shall inform the lessor of the condition of the dwelling before abandoning it or within the following 10 days (art. 1915 C.C.Q.).

Urgent and necessary repairs

25. The lessee shall allow urgent and necessary repairs to be made to ensure the preservation or enjoyment of the leased property, but he or she retains, according to the circumstances, recourses, including the right to compensation if he or she vacates the dwelling temporarily.

In the case of urgent repairs, the lessor may require the lessee to vacate the property temporarily, without notice and without authorization from the Tribunal administratif du logement (art. 1865 C.C.Q.).

26. The lessee may, without the authorization of the Tribunal administratif du logement, undertake repairs or incur expenses provided they are urgent and necessary to ensure the preservation or enjoyment of the leased property. However, the lessee may do so only if he or she has informed or attempted to inform the lessor of the situation and if the latter has not acted in due course.

The lessor may intervene at any time to pursue the work.

The lessee shall render an account to the lessor of the repairs undertaken and the expenses incurred and shall deliver the invoices to the lessor. The lessee may withhold from his or her rent an amount for reasonable expenses incurred (arts. 1868 and 1869 C.C.Q.).

Major non-urgent work

(arts. 1922 to 1929 C.C.Q.)

27. The lessor shall give notice to the lessee before undertaking in the dwelling major improvements or repairs that are not urgent. If it is necessary for the lessee to vacate the dwelling temporarily, the lessor shall offer him or her an indemnity equal to the reasonable expenses the lessee will have to incur during the work. Such indemnity is payable to the lessee on the date he or she vacates the dwelling.

The notice shall indicate the nature of the work, the date on which it is to begin, an estimation of its duration and, where applicable, the necessary period of vacancy, the indemnity offered and any other conditions under which the work will be carried out, if it is of such a nature as to cause a substantial reduction of the enjoyment of the premises by the lessee.

The notice shall be given at least 10 days before the date on which the work is to begin, except where the lessee must vacate the dwelling for more than one week. In such case, at least three months' notice is required.

If the lessee fails to reply within 10 days after receiving the notice requiring him or her to vacate the dwelling temporarily, the lessee is deemed to have refused to vacate the premises. If the lessee refuses to vacate or fails to reply, the lessor may, within 10 days after such refusal, apply to the Tribunal administratif du logement for a ruling on the matter.

However, if the notice does not require the lessee to vacate the dwelling temporarily or if the lessee agrees to vacate, the lessee may, within 10 days after receiving the notice, apply to the Tribunal administratif du logement to modify or strike out any condition relating to the performance of the work that he or she considers abusive.

The Tribunal administratif du logement may be required to rule on the reasonableness of the work, the conditions relating to its performance, the necessity of the vacancy and the indemnity, if any.

ACCESS TO AND VISIT OF DWELLING

28. To exercise rights of access to the dwelling, the lessor and the lessee are bound to act in good faith:

- the lessee shall facilitate access to the dwelling and shall not refuse access without justification;
- the lessor shall not abuse his or her rights and shall exercise them in a reasonable manner with due respect for privacy (arts. 3, 6, 7, 1375 and 1857 C.C.Q.).

29. The lessor may have access to the dwelling during the lease:

- to ascertain the condition of the dwelling between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.;
- to show the dwelling to a prospective acquirer between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.;
- to carry out work between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

In all three cases, the lessor shall notify the lessee verbally 24 hours in advance. In the case of major work, the period for giving notice differs (arts. 1898, 1931 and 1932 C.C.Q.).

30. A lessee who gives notice to the lessor of his or her intention to vacate the dwelling shall, from that time, allow the lessor to show the dwelling to prospective lessees between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m., and allow the lessor to post "For rent" signs (arts. 1930 and 1932 C.C.Q.).

The lessor is not required to notify the lessee 24 hours in advance of a visit by a prospective lessee.

31. The lessee may require the presence of the lessor or his or her representative during a visit to or a verification of the dwelling (art. 1932 C.C.Q.).

32. Except in case of emergency, the lessee may deny access to the dwelling if the conditions fixed by law are not satisfied.

Where the lessee denies access to the dwelling for a reason other than those provided for by law, the lessor may file an application with the Tribunal administratif du logement to obtain an order for access.

Abuse of the right of access by the lessor or unjustified denial of access by the lessee may also, depending on the circumstances, allow the exercise of certain remedies, such as the filing of an application for damages or punitive damages (arts. 1863, 1902, 1931 to 1933 C.C.Q. and s. 49 of the Charter).

33. No lock or other device restricting access to a dwelling may be installed or replaced without the consent of the lessor and the lessee (art. 1934 C.C.Q.).

34. The lessor may not prohibit a candidate in a provincial, federal, municipal or school election, an official delegate appointed by a national committee or the authorized representative of either from having access to the immovable or dwelling for the purposes of an election campaign or a legally constituted referendum (art. 1935 C.C.Q.).

NOTICES

35. Every notice relating to the lease, given by the lessor (e.g. notice of modification of the lease to increase the rent) or by the lessee (e.g. notice of non-renewal of the lease), shall be written and drawn up in the same language as the lease. The notice shall be given at the address indicated in the lease or at any new address communicated since then (art. 1898 C.C.Q.).

Exception: Only a notice by the lessor for the purpose of having access to the dwelling may be given orally.

36. Where a notice does not conform to the prescribed requirements concerning the written form, the address or the language, it is valid only on the condition that the person who gave it proves that the addressee has not suffered any damage as a consequence.

RENEWAL AND MODIFICATION OF LEASE

Renewal of lease

37. A lease with a fixed term is "renewed of right" when the lease expires, which means that it is automatically renewed at term on the same conditions and for the same term.

However, a lease with a term of more than 12 months is renewed for one year only (art. 1941 C.C.Q.).

The lessor may not prevent the lease from being renewed, except in certain cases (art. 1944 C.C.Q.). However, the lessor may modify the lease at the time of renewal, provided that he or she gives notice to the lessee.

The lessee may avoid such renewal, provided that he or she gives notice to the lessor.

Non-renewal of lease by the lessee

38. A lessee who wishes to vacate the dwelling upon termination of a lease with a fixed term, or to terminate a lease with an indeterminate term, shall give notice to the lessor or reply to the lessor's notice within the time periods indicated in **Table A** (arts. 1942, 1945 and 1946 C.C.Q.).

Modification of lease

39. The lessor may modify the conditions of the lease at the time of its renewal. For instance, the lessor may modify its term or increase the rent. To that end, he or she shall give a notice of modification of the conditions of the lease to the lessee within the time periods indicated in **Table B** (art. 1942 C.C.Q.).

40. The lessor shall, in the notice of modification, indicate to the lessee:

- the modification(s) requested;
- the new term of the lease if he or she wishes to change it;
- the new rent in dollars or the increase requested, expressed in dollars or as a percentage, if he or she wishes to increase the rent. However, where an application for the fixing or review of the rent has already been filed, the increase may be expressed as a percentage of the rent to be determined by the Tribunal administratif du logement;
- the time granted to the lessee to refuse the proposed modification(s), i.e. one month after receiving the notice (arts. 1943 and 1945 C.C.Q.);
- the response options of the lessee.

The notice of modification of the conditions of the lease must also reproduce the text in Schedule I to the Regulation respecting the mandatory content of a notice of modification of the lease of a dwelling (CQLR, c. T-15.01, r. 1.1).

Reply to a notice of modification

(art. 1945 C.C.Q.)

41. A lessee who receives a notice of modification of the lease from the lessor has **one month after receiving it** to reply and notify the lessor that he or she either:

- accepts the requested modification(s); or
- refuses the requested modification(s) and will continue to occupy the dwelling (see "Exception" below); or
- will vacate the dwelling upon termination of the lease.

If the lessee fails to reply, this means that he or she accepts the modification(s) requested by the lessor.

If the lessee refuses the modification(s), he or she is entitled to remain in the dwelling because the lease is renewed. In case of refusal, see particular No. 42.

Exception: Where one of the restrictions on the right to have the rent fixed and the lease modified applies (**Section F**), the lessee who refuses the requested modification(s) shall vacate the dwelling upon termination of the lease (art. 1955 C.C.Q.).

A copy of the "Notice of Rent Increase and Modification of Another Condition of the Lease" and a copy of the lessee's reply to such notice are found on the Tribunal administratif du logement's website (www.tal.gouv.qc.ca).

Fixing of conditions of the lease by the Tribunal administratif du logement

42. The lessor has one month, after receiving the reply of a lessee who refuses the modifications, to apply to the Tribunal administratif du logement for the fixing of the rent or for a ruling on any other modification of the lease (see **Table B**). If the lessor does not file such application, the lease is renewed of right on the same conditions (art. 1947 C.C.Q.).

Agreement on modifications

43. Where the lessor and the lessee agree on the modifications to be made to the lease (e.g. rent, term), the lessor shall give the lessee, before the beginning of the renewed lease, a document describing those modifications (art. 1895 C.C.Q.).

Contestation of an adjustment of rent

44. Where a lease with a term of more than 12 months contains a clause providing for an adjustment of the rent, the lessee or the lessor may contest the excessive or inadequate nature of the agreed adjustment and have the rent fixed.

An application for that purpose shall be filed with the Tribunal administratif du logement within one month following the date on which the adjustment is to take effect (art. 1949 C.C.Q.).

REPOSSESSION OF DWELLING AND EVICTION

(arts. 1957 to 1970 C.C.Q.)

Repossession

45. Where the lessor of the dwelling is the owner, he or she may repossess the dwelling in order to live in it or to allow one of the beneficiaries provided for by law to live in it.

If the immovable belongs to more than one person, the dwelling may generally be repossessed only if there is only one other co-owner and the two co-owners are spouses.

A legal person may not avail itself of the right to repossess a dwelling.

Beneficiaries may be:

- the lessor, his or her father, mother, children or any other relative or person connected by marriage or a civil union of whom the lessor is the main support;
- the spouse of whom the lessor remains the main support after a separation from bed and board or divorce or the dissolution of a civil union.

A lessor may not repossess the dwelling of a lessee if the lessee or the lessee's spouse meets all the following conditions at the time of the repossession:

- the lessee is 65 years of age or over;
- the lessee has occupied the dwelling for at least 10 years;
- the lessee's income is equal to or below 125% of the maximum threshold of income to be eligible for low-rental housing.

Despite that, the lessor may repossess the dwelling if the lessor meets one or more of the following conditions:

- the lessor is 65 years of age or over and wishes to repossess the dwelling to live in it;
- the beneficiary of the repossession is 65 years of age or over;
- the lessor is an owner-occupant 65 years of age or over and wishes to have a beneficiary under 65 years of age reside in the same dwelling as him or her.

To repossess the dwelling, the lessor shall give notice within the prescribed time periods. The steps for the repossession of the dwelling and the time periods for giving notice are presented in **Table C**.

The notice shall contain the following:

- the name of the beneficiary;
- the degree of relationship or the connection between the beneficiary and the lessor, if any;
- the date fixed for the repossession;
- the content of article 1959.1 C.C.Q.

Eviction

The lessor may evict the lessee to divide the dwelling, enlarge it substantially or change its destination. The notice shall indicate the date of and the reason for the eviction and respect the time periods presented in **Table C** (arts. 1959 to 1961 C.C.Q.). The notice must also reproduce the content of article 1959.1 C.C.Q.

The lessor may not evict a lessee if the lessee or the lessee's spouse meets all the following conditions at the time of the eviction:

- the lessee is 65 years of age or over;
- the lessee has occupied the dwelling for at least 10 years;
- the lessee's income is equal to or below 125% of the maximum threshold of income to be eligible for low-rental housing.

A lessee who refuses to consent to the repossession of the dwelling or to eviction from it shall do so in accordance with the rules provided for in the *Civil Code of Québec* (see **Table C**). An indemnity may be payable (arts. 1965 and 1967 C.C.Q.).

Note that different conditions could apply for the purposes of exercising your rights (e.g. date that a notice is sent). Refer to the website of the Tribunal administratif du logement (www.tal.gouv.qc.ca) for more details.

Change of destination of a dwelling where services of a personal nature provided to the lessee are provided to seniors

45.1 A lessor may not evict a lessee solely because of a change of destination referred to in article 1955.1 of the *Civil Code of Québec*, unless the lessor offered, not later than one month before sending the notice of eviction, to resiliate the lease and to enter into a new lease, without interruption and in accordance with the first paragraph of that article, and the lessee has refused that offer. The offer must indicate, in particular, the services, accessories, dependencies and other benefits provided under the previous lease that will no longer be provided, as well as the cost of each of them. It must also reproduce the content of articles 1955.1 and 1959.2 of the *Civil Code of Québec*.

Within one month after receiving the lessor's offer, the lessee is bound to inform the lessor of whether or not the lessee accepts the offer; the proposal is deemed to have been refused if the lessee fails to respond.

A lessee who accepts such an offer may nevertheless, within one month after entering into the lease, apply to the court to have the rent fixed in accordance with the first paragraph of article 1955.1 of the *Civil Code of Québec* or, as applicable, for a ruling on any other modification in comparison with the resiliated lease.

45.2 In the case of a notice of eviction that concerns a dwelling situated in a private seniors' residence or in another lodging facility where services of a personal nature provided to the lessee are provided to seniors, the notice must include the following:

- the reason for the eviction;
- the date fixed for the eviction;
- the content of articles 1955.1, 1959.1 and 1959.2 C.C.Q.

The notice must respect the time periods presented in **Table C** (arts. 1959 to 1961 C.C.Q.).

ASSIGNMENT AND SUBLEASING

46. Where a lessee assigns his or her lease, the lessee abandons all of his or her rights and transfers all of his or her obligations in respect of the dwelling to a person called the "assignee"; as a result, the lessee is released from his or her obligations towards the lessor (art. 1873 C.C.Q.).

A lessee who subleases all or part of his or her dwelling binds himself or herself towards the sublessee, but is not released from his or her obligations towards the lessor (art. 1870 C.C.Q.).

47. The lessee is entitled to assign the lease or to sublease the dwelling with the consent of the lessor. However, the latter may not refuse to give his or her consent without a serious reason (arts. 1870 and 1871 C.C.Q.) to avoid the resiliation of the lease.

48. The lessee shall give the lessor notice of his or her intention to assign the lease or to sublease the dwelling. Such notice shall indicate the name and address of the person to whom the lessee intends to assign the lease or sublease the dwelling and, in the case of an assignment, shall also indicate the fixed date of assignment (arts. 1870 and 1978.1 C.C.Q.).

If the lessor refuses, he or she shall inform the lessee of his or her reasons for refusing within 15 days after receiving the notice. Otherwise, the lessor is deemed to have consented to the assignment or sublease (art. 1871 C.C.Q.).

48.1 The lessor may refuse to consent to the assignment of the lease for a reason other than a serious reason. In such a case, the lease is resiliated on the date of assignment indicated in the notice sent by the lessee.

49. A lessor who consents to the assignment or sublease may not exact any payment other than the reimbursement of any reasonable expenses resulting from the assignment or sublease (art. 1872 C.C.Q.).

49.1 A lessee who assigns his or her lease may not exact consideration (art. 1978.3 C.C.Q.).

A lessee who subleases his or her dwelling may not exact, in addition to the cost of the services offered and reasonable expenses for the use of movable property owned by the lessee, an amount exceeding the rent the lessee pays to the lessor (art. 1978.4 C.C.Q.).

50. The sublease terminates not later than the date on which the lease of the lessee terminates. However, the sublessee is not required to vacate the dwelling before receiving notice of 10 days to that effect from the sublessor or, failing him or her, from the lessor (art. 1940 C.C.Q.).

RESILIATION OF LEASE BY THE LESSEE

51. Pursuant to article **1974 of the *Civil Code of Québec***, a lessee may resiliate his or her lease if:

- he or she is allocated a **dwelling in low-rental housing**; or
- he or she can no longer occupy the dwelling because of **a handicap**; or
- in the case of **a senior,** he or she is permanently admitted to a residential and long-term care centre (CHSLD), to an intermediate resource, to a private seniors' residence where the nursing care and personal assistance services required by his or her state of health are provided, or to any other lodging facility, regardless of its name,

where such care and services are provided, whether or not the lessee already resides in such a place at the time of admission.

Pursuant to article **1974.1 of the *Civil Code of Québec***, a lessee may also resiliate his or her lease:

- if, because of spousal violence, sexual violence or violence towards a child living in the dwelling covered by the lease, the safety of the lessee or of the child is threatened.

Notices
- Article 1974 C.C.Q.

The resiliation takes effect two months after a notice is sent to the lessor or one month after the notice is sent if the lease is for an indeterminate term or a term of less than 12 months, **or before the expiry of this period** if the parties so agree or when the dwelling, having been vacated by the lessee, is re-leased during that same period.

The notice shall be sent with an attestation from the authority concerned.

In the case of a senior, the notice of resiliation shall also be sent with **a certificate from an authorized person** stating that the conditions requiring admission to the facility have been met.

- Article 1974.1 C.C.Q.

The resiliation takes effect two months after a notice is sent to the lessor or one month after the notice is sent if the lease is for an indeterminate term or a term of less than 12 months, **or before the expiry of this period** if the parties so agree or when the dwelling, having been vacated by the lessee, is re-leased during that same period.

The notice must be sent with an **attestation from a public servant or public officer designated by the Minister of Justice**, who, on examining the **lessee's sworn statement** that there exists a situation involving violence, and other factual elements or documents supporting the lessee's statement provided by persons in contact with the victims, considers that the resiliation of the lease is a measure that will ensure the safety of the lessee or of a child living with the lessee. The public servant or public officer must act promptly.

Services (arts. 1974 and 1974.1 C.C.Q.)
If the rent includes services of a personal nature provided to the lessee or, where applicable, to his or her child, the lessee is only required to pay that part of the rent that relates to the services provided before he or she vacated the dwelling, whether or not such services were provided under a contract separate from the lease.

SURRENDER OF DWELLING UPON TERMINATION OF THE LEASE

52. The lessee shall vacate the dwelling upon termination of the lease; no grace period is provided for by law.

When vacating the dwelling, the lessee shall remove any furniture or objects other than those belonging to the lessor (art. 1890 C.C.Q.).

53. Upon termination of the lease, the lessee shall surrender the dwelling in the condition in which he or she received it, except for changes resulting from aging, fair wear and tear or superior force.

The condition of the dwelling may be established by the description made or the photographs taken by the parties; otherwise, the lessee is presumed to have received the dwelling in good condition (art. 1890 C.C.Q.).

54. Upon termination of the lease, the lessee shall remove all the constructions, works or plantations he or she has made. If they cannot be removed without deteriorating the dwelling, the lessor may retain them by paying the value thereof or compel the lessee to remove them and to restore the property to the condition in which he or she received it.

Where the dwelling cannot be restored to the condition in which the lessee received it, the lessor may retain them without compensation to the lessee (art. 1891 C.C.Q.).

NON-RENEWAL OF LEASE BY THE LESSEE: PERIODS FOR GIVING NOTICE (arts. 1942, 1945 and 1946 C.C.Q.)

TABLE A	Lessee who has not received a notice of modification of the lease	Lessee of a room who has not received a notice of modification of the lease	Lessee (including the lessee of a room) who has received a notice of modification of the lease
Lease of 12 months or more	Between 3 and 6 months before termination of the lease	Between 10 and 20 days before termination of the lease	Within 1 month after receiving the lessor's notice
Lease of less than 12 months	Between 1 and 2 months before termination of the lease		
Lease with an indeterminate term	Between 1 and 2 months before desired termination of the lease	Between 10 and 20 days before desired termination of the lease	

STEPS FOR MODIFYING THE LEASE AND PERIODS FOR GIVING NOTICE (arts. 1942, 1945 and 1947 C.C.Q.)

TABLE B	Step 1: Notice by lessor	Step 2: Lessee's reply	Step 3: Application to the Tribunal administratif du logement by lessor
Lease of 12 months or more	Between 3 and 6 months before termination of the lease	Within 1 month after receiving the notice of modification. If the lessee fails to reply, he or she is deemed to have accepted the modification.	Within 1 month after receiving the lessee's refusal. Otherwise, the lease is renewed of right on the same conditions.
Lease of less than 12 months	Between 1 and 2 months before termination of the lease		
Lease with an indeterminate term	Between 1 and 2 months before proposed modification		
Lease of a room	Between 10 and 20 days before the termination of a fixed-term lease or before the proposed modification if the lease has an indeterminate term		

See **Exception** in particular No. 41

STEPS FOR REPOSSESSING THE DWELLING OR EVICTION AND PERIODS FOR GIVING NOTICE (arts. 1960, 1962 and 1963 C.C.Q.)

TABLE C	Step 1: Notice by lessor	Step 2: Lessee's reply	Step 3: Application to the Tribunal administratif du logement by lessor
Lease of more than 6 months	6 months before termination of the lease	Within 1 month after receiving the lessor's notice. If the lessee fails to reply, he or she is deemed to have refused to vacate the dwelling.	Within 1 month after the refusal or the expiry of the period granted to the lessee to reply
Lease of 6 months or less	1 month before termination of the lease		
Lease with an indeterminate term	6 months before intended date of repossession or eviction		

END OF MANDATORY PARTICULARS