Neil Hiebert Consultant

14-49 Hargrave Street

Winnipeg, Manitoba

R3C 1N3

(204) 942-1698

**neilhiebert@shaw.ca**

Minister of Housing

358 – 450 Broadway Avenue

Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Dear Madame Minister:

 As an independent Consultant working in the community with the concerns for the disadvantaged around me, I want to raise a couple of points with you in the hope that you will act swiftly in your department to correct existing disparities that affect those who have no voice.

 Property owners and property managers in Winnipeg have taken control of renters into their own hands. Around here, all the apartment caretakers have exchanged master keys that anybody enters any persons’ living quarters any time they choose. This is strictly illegal. The dangers exacerbate an already unstable condition. The police do not respond to the pleading of the person, only the manger or caretakers word is counted, while they are lying to the police.

 The owners who are far removed are the first ones to blame the tenants who are actually in the right. The Courts have a terrible record on endorsing the inequality and I am asking you to review the kinds of stipulations that exist in tenant and landlord agreement that allows this practice to continue in our city for so long undetected and unattended to. How can the government sit idly by and not do anything to protect the poor?

 There is the other fact that whoever wants to move out of the low-rise apartments into more upscale living they are scrutinized and questioned beyond reason. This level of inquiry is blatant discrimination. How can the legislation permit this kind of treatment? Those who work for limited income are entitled by law and statutes to the same living conditions as they deem desirable to their choice and ability to pay. If they are handicapped and work for less they should never be questioned on their merit, yet this is a daily reality.

Sincerely,

 N. Hiebert