

T.-C. 13 Sept. 2019

Orchard House is not a condominium

Your photo on Wednesday of the under-construction tallest-in-Victoria Hudson Place One rental building said in error that the once-tallest Orchard House tower in James Bay is a condominium building.

In fact, our building is a long-term rental or "leasehold" building. We tenants hold the remaining years of 99-year leases, which sounds great, except that we are not covered by B.C. landlord-tenant law, thanks to previous Liberal governments that favoured developers and investment-property owners.

There are five "leasehold" buildings in Victoria-Beacon Hill, which is the riding of NDP MLA and Deputy Premier Carole James, plus several dozen more in the Lower Mainland. If our buildings were covered by B.C. condominium or landlord-tenant law, we long-term renters would have some rights and protections such as those enjoyed by Hudson Place renters and all B.C. condo owners. We hope to hear soon that the provincial government will be legislating on our behalf.

Gerald Rotering
Victoria