

## LETTER: Stop viewing renters as second class citizens

North Shore News

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Dear Editor:

Re: [Curb Foreign Ownership to Halt Rising House Prices \(http://www.nsnews.com/opinion/letters/letter-curb-foreign-ownership-to-halt-rising-house-prices-1.2156724\)](http://www.nsnews.com/opinion/letters/letter-curb-foreign-ownership-to-halt-rising-house-prices-1.2156724), Jan. 22 Mailbox.

Patricia and Bill Marchant could have stated their opinion against foreign ownership without disparaging renters as "temporary occupants." Just because someone rents his or her home doesn't mean he or she is bad for the neighbourhood.

Having rented in North Vancouver for more than 18 years, I would like to reassure anyone who fears renters that I indeed pay property taxes. My landlord tells me that's why my rent increases every year. As well, my son attends public school, where I meet with the parent advisory committee. My neighbours lead similar lives, renting, working, raising children and contributing to the community. Several of my former neighbours lived their entire working lives in rentals. Then they moved to hospice facilities or care homes. They weren't nobodies.

For intelligent discussions about housing, stop viewing renters as second class citizens.

**Cinda Morales**

**North Vancouver**

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