



## **MEDIA RELEASE – For Immediate Release February 17, 2010**

### **Landlords and Tenants: What are your rights?**

“If you are a landlord or a tenant in Alberta, there are laws that you need to know. These laws are set out under the Residential Tenancies Act, which governs the relationship between landlords and tenants”, says Sarah Leach, Yellowhead County Family and Community Support Services Outreach Coordinator. To learn more about this complex topic you can attend a workshop on February 25, 2010, at 7 p.m. in the Evansburg Heritage House. Christine Palmer, of Reid Law office in Drayton Valley, will be the presenter.

The lease or tenancy agreement is a contract between tenant and landlord. The law establishes some terms of the contract whether they are included or not, but there are many items not covered by the Residential Tenancies Act which landlord and tenant can make an agreement about. Understanding both your lease and the law is very important, especially when you plan to have roommates or are taking over a lease from someone else. Each situation and the way it is handled can affect your rights and obligations. For example, a couple could rent a house, but only one of them may sign the lease. The partner who did not sign can be listed as an occupant. Under the Act, any person given permission to live in the premises is also a tenant and is liable for rent, but if the agreement states that the tenant will carry out certain repairs, the person who did not sign the agreement may have no obligation to do the repairs.

A security deposit is money given to a landlord at the start of a tenancy on the understanding that it will be returned if the tenant meets certain conditions. The law requires landlords to put the security deposit in an interest-bearing trust account within two banking days of receiving the money. The interest must be returned to the tenant.

To register for this workshop call the Yellowhead County office in Wildwood at 780-325-2782 or 1-800-814-3935.

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#### **For More Information Contact:**

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