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## **Chender Misleads on Rent Control**

Halifax — Nova Scotia NDP Leader Claudia Chender is making false and misleading statements about the impact on rent control.

On Monday, June 15, 2026, Chender spoke on City News 95.7, asserting that jurisdictions with rent control are seeing rents stabilize or decline and that such policies improve affordability.

Rental Housing Providers Nova Scotia said Chender's statements aren't supported by data.

"Across Canada, some of the most affordable rental markets are in provinces without rent control, including Alberta and Saskatchewan," said Kevin Russell, Executive Director of RHPNS. "According to national rent data, average rents in those provinces remain significantly lower than in Nova Scotia and in jurisdictions with stricter rent regulation."

Recent data shows average rents in Saskatchewan and Alberta are well below those in Nova Scotia, Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia, despite provinces like Nova Scotia having more restrictive rent control regimes.

RHPNS also pointed to testimony before the Nova Scotia Legislature's Community Services Committee on June 2, 2026, where even tenant advocates acknowledged the relative affordability of those markets.

"When you can get rents for \$1,200 a month in Edmonton and Regina, what's keeping me here?" said Heather Clark, Chair of Halifax-Mainland chapter of ACORN in her remarks to the committee.

Russell said before rent control was introduced in Nova Scotia in 2020, Nova Scotia rents increased at a lower rate than in rent-controlled jurisdictions like Ontario and British Columbia. The independent Affordable Housing Commission of Nova Scotia also recommended in 2021 that rent control be scrapped once the COVID-19 state of emergency ended.

RHPNS warned the NDP, PCs and Liberals in 2021 that enshrining rent control would increase costs for tenants.

“The solution on rental housing affordability, as we see and as ACORN has noted, is in places like Alberta and Saskatchewan with no rent control,” said Russell. “It’s time that politicians like Claudia Chender stop attacking rental housing providers with falsehoods and sit down and work with our industry on solutions.”

RHPNS also raised concerns about the lack of scrutiny applied to these claims during the interview.

“It’s important that public discussions about housing are grounded in evidence,” added Russell. “Listeners were left with the impression that rent control directly leads to lower rents, when the data shows the opposite.”

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**Media Contact:**

Kevin Russell  
C: 902.789.0946  
E: [kevin@rhpsns.ca](mailto:kevin@rhpsns.ca)



**Kevin Russell** | Executive Director  
**O:** 902.425.3572 | **C:** 902.789.0946  
168 Hobson Lake Drive, Suite 301, Halifax, NS, B3S 0G4  
[www.rhpsns.ca](http://www.rhpsns.ca) | **CFAA Association of the Year**

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