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Better enforcement of tenant/landlord law needed from Nova Scotia government

Laws that are supposed to protect property owners and tenants from abuse need better enforcement from the Nova Scotia government. That's why the Investment Property Owners Association of Nova Scotia (IPOANS) is renewing its call for a compliance and enforcement unit.

Based on similar bodies that exist in Ontario and British Columbia, a compliance and enforcement unit in Nova Scotia would help ensure compliance with the Residential Tenancies Act by either property owners or tenants.

"A law is only as good as its enforcement," said Kevin Russell, executive director of IPOANS. "Too many landlords have no choice when tenants abuse the system, don't pay affordable rents, damage or destroy property or threaten other tenants. We also know that tenants are frustrated. Nova Scotia needs to properly enforce its Residential Tenancies Act, with the kind of enforcement unit we see in other Canadian provinces."

Among the benefits of having a compliance and enforcement unit are keeping tenants in their homes and penalizing repeat offenders of violating the *Residential Tenancies Act*.

"The Residential Tenancies Act is useless because it's not enforced in a meaningful way. It doesn't matter if you're a landlord or a tenant, if you don't follow the law, you should face the consequences, but that can only happen if the law is actually enforced," said Ursula Prosegger, who owns and operates several rental housing buildings in Dartmouth. *"If an NDP government in British Columbia can bring an enforcement unit to that province, a PC government should be able to do the same in Nova Scotia."*

IPOANS has been promoting the need for such a unit in Nova Scotia since last year.

Since 1978, IPOANS has been the voice of residential rental property owners, with IPOANS members collectively having more than 45,000 residential housing units under management across Nova Scotia.

Questions?
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