

**For Immediate Release**  
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### **Fear campaigns puts housing solutions at risk**

False claims from activists about the impact of Nova Scotia returning to a highly regulated, market-based system of setting rents are putting housing solutions at risk.

Last week, the Nova Scotia government issued a reminder that any tenant who has received a rental increase under the current 2% cap imposed last November can't receive another increase for another 12 months under the Nova Scotia *Residential Tenancies Act*.

"Anybody who claims that thousands of Nova Scotians will be made homeless as a result of the government following through on its commitments is simply making things up and needlessly causing anxiety among Nova Scotia tenants," said Kevin Russell, executive director of the Investment Property Owners Association of Nova Scotia. "It's time to stop the fear campaign and focus on working to build more housing for Nova Scotians who need it most."

IPOANS has been urging professional landlords to take a responsible approach in communicating with tenants and not give notice of unreasonable rent increases. The organization has also encouraged to work with tenants directly on affordability issues. A national survey by SVN Rock Advisors Inc. indicated that at the start of COVID-19 in Canada in March 2020 through May 2020, as renters suffered the deepest drop in income, Halifax led the country in rent deferrals, with more than 2,000 negotiated rent deferral agreements between tenants and landlords.

"The facts are clear: the overwhelming majority of landlords take a responsible approach in dealing with tenants in Nova Scotia," added Russell. "The more time we spend on false claims of thousands of Nova Scotians at risk of being homeless is less time we're spending on accelerating solutions to get new housing built."

*The Investment Property Owners Association of Nova Scotia (IPOANS) has been the voice of residential rental property owners since 1978. IPOANS members collectively have more than 45,000 residential housing units under management across Nova Scotia.*

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