Evictions in Toronto: Governance Challenges and the Need for Intergovernmental Cooperation

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In Ontario, the province controls the residential eviction process, but cities experience the impacts of these policies, from rising housing instability to an increased burden on the shelter system. This paper examines why municipalities need to have a seat at the provincial table.

Read the full paper: https://uoft.me/EvictionsInToronto

Conclusions:

- Municipalities have limited authority to address the eviction crisis, given the lack of jurisdiction over residential tenancies.
- Strong tenant protections can help stem evictions related to rent increases, renovations, conversions, and demolitions.
- Legislative approaches by the provincial government to address systemic drivers of evictions, such as vacancy decontrol, can also aid in preventing evictions.
- Municipalities can complement provincial legislation by using their jurisdiction over the development approvals and permitting system to address specific local challenges.
- The jurisdiction to address the structural causes of the eviction problem lies at the provincial level, not the municipal.
- Formalizing bilateral provincial-municipal relations would provide official avenues for regular meetings and collaborative governance and would enable timely data-sharing.