

Abusing the Media for funding purposes

There is so much pressure to meet deadlines in the media these days that reporters will often take a story verbatim from most any lobby group or politician or city bureaucrat who hitch their wagons to those lobby groups, without verifying all the information, looking for other opinions or the motivation behind these stories.

It has been very common practise for the Federation of Metro Tenants' Associations to place these stories in newspapers just before lobbying politicians for more money. Its something they learned from retired Toronto city councillor Michael Walker who had been doing it for 28 years for his pet projects and supporters to browbeat other councillors into submission.

The comment posted after the story reveals the FMTA's real motives.



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Rent cut coming for thousands of T.O. tenants

By [ANTONELLA ARTUSO](#), TORONTO SUN

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Story

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About 130,000 Toronto tenants will shortly get notices of an automatic reduction in their rent.

Geordie Dent, executive director of the Federation of Metro Tenants' Associations, told [torontosun.com](#) that the City of Toronto is currently mailing out the notices to renters.

Last year, more than 128,500 tenants in Toronto were advised that they were eligible for a rent cut under provincial law.

Dent said many tenants have complained of being bullied by landlords who don't want to give them the reduction.

"It's been a nightmare ... landlords have been fighting these notices tooth and nail," Dent said Friday. "Even though the tenant didn't really have anything to do with this."

Provincial rent legislation requires that tenants get a break on their rent if the property tax on their buildings has been lowered.

"When a landlord taxes goes down, because essentially tenants' rent pays for everything... including their taxes, the tenants taxes have to go down as well," Dent said.

According to a City of Toronto news release, the rent decreases amounted to \$144 a year on a \$1,200 monthly rent in a building where property taxes dropped 5%.

"Tenants of buildings with more than six units generally pay about 20% of their rent toward property taxes, so if taxes go down, they are entitled to reduce their rent by 20% of the reduction," a 2009 city news release says.

"For buildings with six or fewer units, the percentage is 15."

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If you don't get your rent lowered by the end of the month call the Federation of Metro Tenants Associations Tenant Hotline 416-921-9494 and we will help you.

Your best protection for your rights is to join the thousands of tenants like you at <http://www.torontotenants.org/activism/membership> Even better sign up your whole building to be protected

Join our Toronto Tenants Unite message board <http://members2.boardhost.com/TorontoTenants>

And be sure to contact your city councillor <http://app.toronto.ca/im/council/councillors.jsp> to demand Mayor Ford continues to fund the Tenant Hotline, the Tenant Defense Fund and the many other programs that prevent mass homelessness on our streets.

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