Introduction

- Open data can improve the lives of many Torontonians.

- Toronto has different policies compared to other cities like New York, which inadvertently makes it harder for citizens to get involved with fixing city-wide problems.

- Our research and work focuses on using open data to help out with housing issues.

General Overview

- Landlords and tenants have mutual obligations to one another, but landlords hold all the cards and there is little recourse for tenants if a problem arises.

- In many cities, building violations that endanger tenants are usually handled with a slap on the wrist fine that many landlords consider a cost of doing business.

- All types of people experience these problems, but typically the most vulnerable citizens get hurt the most, like those in low-income or public housing.

Our Solution

- We connect to open data resources and analyze building inspection records. We use this to calculate a rating on how landlords comply with local laws and bylaws.

- Look for patterns in behavior that indicate what it's like to live in an apartment before signing a lease. This includes the presence of mold, roaches or vermin.

- Communicate relevant information to users.

PESTS   COCKROACHES   RODENTS   BEDBUGS   UNHAPPY TENANTS   HEAT PROBLEMS

How this helps citizens

- Holds bad landlords accountable.

- Directs the flow of traffic away from bad landlords towards good ones, creating positive feedback loops.

- Incentivizes landlords to clean up their act, take care of their properties or be faced with higher vacancy rates.

How this will help cities

- Helps direct city resources where they are needed most.

- Improves already existing inspection and enforcement.

- Helps make Toronto a more connected, smarter city.

Conclusion

- Toronto has a great open data community, but changing a few small things can improve it drastically.

- This is one of the simplest, most inexpensive and high impact initiative that a city can take to improve the lives of it's citizens.

- Adjusting these policies will allow for citizens and the private sector to help build solutions for other city-wide problems, not just in housing.