



## PROBLEM

There are federal and provincial health departments but no Public Health Department that focuses on the impact of wider structural determinants of health and wellbeing. Healthcare diverts attention away from public health programs, services, and infrastructure.

## EVIDENCE *Our focus group participants said:*

*“A lot of research emphasizes affordable housing and the wellness that it creates ... This circles back to the social determinants of health, and how we need to look at health in a more holistic fashion rather than from just a medical perspective.” (BC)*

*“There's a sense that government has to be the center for policies and public health decisions ... but there's an opportunity ... to decentralize. There's an opportunity to allow for local communities to take more power and be more regularly involved in decision-making and program delivery, and knowledge-generation. Greater community/government engagement is more transparent. ... So that's one way that public health at a macro level [can be assisted].” (ON)*

*And see: K Wilson & MacLennan, 'Federalism and Public Health Law in Canada: Opportunities and Unanswered Questions' (2005) 14 Health Law Rev 3.*

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Intersectoral policy-making is needed to enable a Health in All Policies (HiAP) approach. The office of the Chief Public Health Officer is a vital role and should not be left empty.



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