

ADRIFT

Missing the Point



PROBLEM

Although we are facing an existential crisis, and many people—including clearly identifiable communities—are not getting their needs met, governments and powerful actors continue to pursue unhelpful or even hurtful courses.

EVIDENCE *Our focus group participants said:*

“A lot of community-based initiatives are non-profits and charities ... taking innovative steps ... but they’re not being sustainably funded, they’re not being resourced. This just isn’t a ‘public health’ [issue], this is a system [problem].” (ON)

“People making decisions haven’t walked in the shoes of those who are struggling.” (NS)

“Climate change is an accelerant, poured into already brittle social and economic systems.”

- Sufficiency and Wellbeing Magazine, Feb 2026

And see: Amin & Raphael, ‘Late-Stage Capitalism and the Canadian Polycrisis in Living and Working Conditions: Implications for Health and Means of Responding’ (2026) Int’l J Social Determinants of Health and Health Services online, 27551938251411280; Cabaj et al., ‘The Municipal Role in Public Role, Who Does What Series (IMFG/UPL, 2023); Canadian Society for Policy Alternatives—NS, 2025 Report Card on Child and Family Poverty in NS: No Real Progress (2025).

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Open data on the determinants of health; make structural determinants data known;
2. Adopt legislation guaranteeing a basic living wage guided by evidence;
3. Strengthen labour standards and pay equity;
4. Take legislative and policy steps for the right to housing, food, and transportation.



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