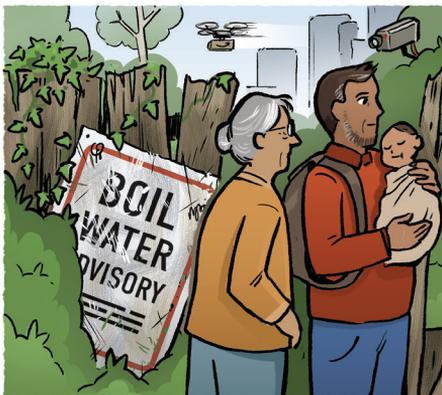
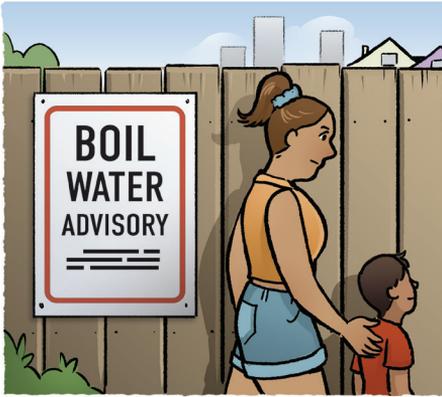


ADRIFT



Neglect



ALARM WILL SOUND
Inaccessible, Inconvenient
Theft Prevention Gates™

PROBLEM

A failure to address known and long-standing social issues like boil water advisories, and to maintain existing utility systems on which millions of people rely (e.g., Calgary water mains system).

EVIDENCE *Our focus group participants said:*

“We really have to do that work of respect and compassion, of inclusion, of access, and have sort of holistic sort of care, that does look at the systems that are making people unwell and unhealthy.” (NS)

“And one amazing thing about our community is how they come together to hold each other up wherever we can intersect to support one another through the fires, floods, COVID-19.” (IN)

“Programs are often very short-lived or time-limited. So it’s very difficult to make any long-term progress or find long-term solutions. After the pandemic, a lot of problems have been exacerbated. Short-term fixes aren’t going to work anymore. We’re putting a bandaid on these things where we really need systemic change.” (HWC)

And see: Canada, Environment and Natural Resources, at <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-indicators/boil-water-advisories.html>, which reports that in 2023, 87% of boil water advisories were due to equipment and process-related problems; CBC, ‘30 years under longest boil-water advisory’, Feb 2025.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Governments must diligently comply with their responsibilities under the social contract. The Building Canada Strong initiative must begin with providing everyone in Canada with safe water and power through reliable utility systems.



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