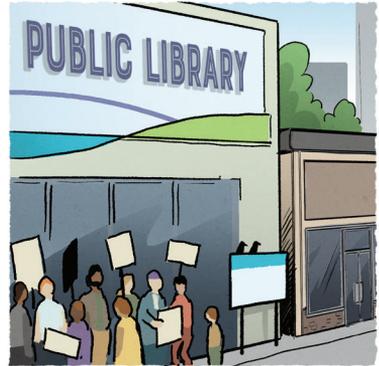
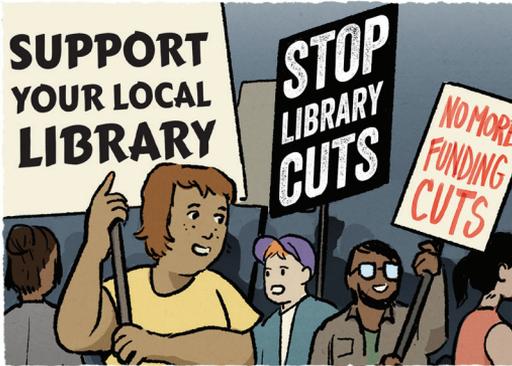


ADRIFT Private Profit Enterprise Replaces Public Spaces



PROBLEM

Under funding and increasing privatization of public spaces has increased disparity and isolation. There is a need for public or third spaces that everyone is able to access in order to build community and to strengthen social fabric. Public spaces help make our communities more resilient.

EVIDENCE *Our focus group participants said:*

"I see a lot of strength in our community spaces. Places where [...] people are able to go and make interpersonal connections or meet up and spend time." (AB)

"[Third spaces provide] access to spaces in the community that are free, like public libraries and community centers, and stuff like that, that can be accessed for a number of different purposes. Whether that's safety, cooling, access to free information, services that you wouldn't have to pay for or events that are free that people can go to." (BC)

"But interesting that you speak [about] the libraries, because I totally agree that the libraries are having to take the brunt, because we have completely scalped our system. And so we're seeing that on the ground [with our patients]." (HCW)

And see: Public Health Agency of Canada. Chief Public Health Officer of Canada's Report on the State of Public Health in Canada 2023: Creating the Conditions for Resilient Communities: A Public Health Approach to Emergencies. Ottawa, ON: Public Health Agency of Canada; 2023.; Finlay et al, "Closure of 'third places'? Exploring potential consequences for collective health and wellbeing" (2019) 60 Health & Place 102225.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Public spaces that are accessible to all serve as important means of knowledge exchange, building social and community connections and healthier communities. Public health needs to be proactively enabled and responsible for securing, sustainably resourcing and funding freely accessible and beautiful safe spaces, such as libraries, community centres, recreational facilities and parks for people to gather and recreate in every community.



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