



PROBLEM

Ongoing neglect of legislation and policy action driven by neoliberal principles and economies have neglected social welfare resulting in crises in affordable housing, food, transportation, meeting environmental targets, and ensuring a living wage.

EVIDENCE *Our focus group participants said:*

Those specialized services are being accessed, over and over again, not only by those who live below the poverty line, but those who are above it who are now feeling really stretched by all the financial aspects that are impacting them. . . Nowadays, with your rent being as high as it is. . . even though I have a full time job, maybe I do have to go access the food bank, which means the food bank is even further stretched". (BC)

"If we can't do it right or effectively for those having the most challenge to access the very things they need, they remain marginalized and vulnerable. We've got to improve [policy] evaluation and response and let people know we're responding to feedback. That's challenging but it's absolutely needed because if trust is not rebuilt ... then we're going to lose a valuable voice in our communities." (NS)

And see: Thomas, 'Let's Stop Calling it a Housing Crisis', *Policy Options*, Nov 2023; Samson et al., 'Slaying myths about income support', *Policy Options*, Feb 2026; CCPA, 'What the 2025 Living Wage Rates Reveal', Sep 2025; CCPA, '2025 Report Card on Child and Family Poverty in Nova Scotia', Feb 2026.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Adopt living wage legislation. Build public housing rather than shift Canadian Housing Strategy money to private developers. Halt the concentration and corporatization of food production and adopt sustainable practices. Design comprehensive, fast, low-cost public transportation.



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