

Housing and Homelessness

The pandemic has deeply affected our social and economic systems and has uncovered just how deep the crises in our systems run. We must do better than returning to a pre-pandemic Nova Scotia. Before the pandemic, many Nova Scotians were struggling to make ends meet, uncertain about how they would pay next month's rent or power bill. Many were going without food or rationing because they had to use their food money as their only 'discretionary' money to ensure they did not lose the roof over their heads.

In Nova Scotia, thousands are without any place to call their own, living on the streets, couch surfing or staying in shelters. Others are in accommodations that they cannot afford, or which are not safe nor adequate nor properly maintained. For others, there is a lack of housing that is accessible and accommodates their needs to live barrier-free. As housing becomes even more unaffordable in areas located close to employment, services and amenities, it pushes many out of their communities, isolating them.

So many Nova Scotians are housing insecure: they have very little protection to support them to stay in their current housing situation in the face of evictions and rising rents, or even to move to a more suitable location. Housing insecurity leads to increased stress, morbidity, mortality, social exclusion, illness, and disease. Ensuring that everyone has a housing secure future is critical for their health and our collective community's well-being.

