ANNUAL REPORT 2021

CCPA
CANADIAN CENTRE
for POLICY ALTERNATIVES
NOVA SCOTIA OFFICE

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A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE CCPA-NS

In 2021 the CCPA-NS published on a range of important policy issues including child care, labour, housing, poverty, and fiscal policy, producing 5 reports, 12 blogs & 10 Op-eds.

In the Spring we released *The Cost of Poverty in the Atlantic Provinces*, underlining the cost to provincial governments of not addressing the needs of the population. We also released *Keys to a Housing Secure Future for all Nova Scotians*, a report with 95 recommendations on how we can ensure everyone in Nova Scotia has access to housing. We detail the report process on Page 8.

In July we detailed the urgent need for paid sick leave in Nova Scotia in the report, *No Nova Scotian Should Have to Work Sick*, which outlined the principles for ensuring sick leave is effective; it must be universal, paid, adequate, permanent, accessible and employer provided.

We saw our annual *Child Poverty Report Card* continue to be cited throughout the year in the media, as well, used as the basis for advocacy to the Nova Scotia government as it develops a plan to reduce child poverty.

Our living wage calculation will be used as a baseline for contract workers in the Halifax Regional Municipality, is being used by other employers and in collective bargaining.

We know the power of good ideas to improve lives, shift policy, and create meaningful change.

As we continue our work in 2022, we remain committed and dedicated to producing reports and analysis, providing advocates with evidence for change and working toward what we know is possible for this province.

Christine

Christine Saulnier, PhD
CCPA Nova Scotia Director

ABOUT THE CCPA-NS

The Nova Scotia office of the CCPA opened its doors in 1999. With the help of our loyal supporters and research associates, we continue to raise debate and propose policy alternatives that will get us closer to achieving an economically and socially just – as well as an environmentally sustainable - province.

Principles

1. To engage in educational activities concerning public policy;
2. To undertake and encourage research and analysis of public policy and programs;
3. To assist the public in making efficient use of such research;
4. To publish and distribute the results of research to the public.

Values

1. Social justice for all people with respect to gender, race, age, religion, belief, economic circumstances, sexual orientation, or ability;
2. Public debate and diversity of ideas and commentary among individuals and groups;
3. Creativity and innovation; and,
4. Open, honest and respectful communication.

Land Acknowledgement

The CCPA-NS office is located in K'ijipuktuk in Mi'kma'ki, the unceded, unsurrendered ancestral land of the Mi'kmaq people. In the 1700's a series of Peace and Friendship Treaties were signed between representatives of the Mi'kmaq, Wəlastəkwiyik and the British. Referred to as *Peace and Friendship Treaties*, they outline the terms for an intended peaceful coexistence and ongoing good relationship between both nations on the land.

To honour what is set out in the Treaties, the CCPA-NS developed and uses a Social Policy Framework for guiding our reports and recommendations. There are 10 Guiding Principles in the Social Policy Framework that can be used for transforming social policy in our province. The principles in the framework are Interconnectedness, Decolonization, Social Inclusion, Universality, Climate Justice, Decent Work and Well-Being, Public Provision, Fiscal Fairness, Shared Governance and Democratization. Each of these principles integrates an intersectional and evidence-based lens.

By having this Framework underpin our work, it allows us to examine the ongoing impact of colonialism and help us to honor the treaties as we work toward new policy recommendations.

2021 OVERVIEW

- In 2021 the NS Office released 5 reports, 12 blogs, and 10 Op-eds. We presented at 20+ events reaching over 1000 individuals and collaborated throughout the year with 60+ individuals from across universities, non-profits and advocacy organizations.

- We expanded the Living Wage Calculation to include all 5 economic regions of Nova Scotia, providing a fulsome picture of living wages across the province. With this release, we saw an all-time high response with a Facebook audience reach of over 170,000.

- During the first half of 2021, we saw our media exposure increase by over 10%, with a potential viewership of 33.9 million. Our work is being seen by more people on a continuous basis.

- Through collaborative effort we brought together The Housing for All Working Group, which produced the report *Keys to a housing secure future for all Nova Scotians*. We are immensely proud of this report, you can read about the process on page 8.

- Six Research Associates joined the Nova Scotia office in 2021, with backgrounds in housing and homelessness, reproductive justice, critical development studies and public policy. Research Associates are volunteers who routinely contribute to op-eds, blogs and CCPA-NS reports, undertake peer review, and sit on our Research Advisory Committee. They are a vital part of the NS office.

- We welcomed Dr. Catherine Bryan, Assistant Professor, Dalhousie University, as the new Chair of the Research Advisory Committee. Thank you to Govind Rao for serving as RAC Chair from many years. During 2021, the CCPA-NS office grew! We welcomed Lauren Matheson to fill the position Outreach and Community Development officer.

- Several Nova Scotian progressive political groups ran Advocacy Campaigns incorporating CCPA-NS publications, including the Housing for All Report, the Annual Report on Child and Family Poverty, Living Wage, and the Social Policy Framework.

- Our Social Policy framework continues to be used to analyze housing, child care policy, and child welfare policy. It has been taught in university classes including a Master's in social work class at Dalhousie by Senator Wanda Thomas Bernard.

- The office welcomed Senior Researcher Dr. Mary Jean Hande on a term position (August-February), who covered the government's plan for the continuing care sector and home care in Nova Scotia.

- Author, activist and community organiser, Harsha Walia was keynote for our annual fundraising event. Walia spoke to the experience of migrant workers in Canada and how Canada has turned immigration into economic policy that feeds anti-immigrant sentiment.

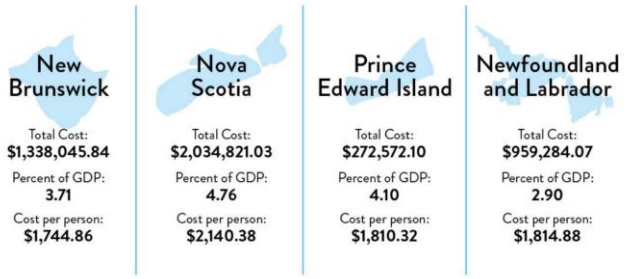
WHAT WE ARE HEARING ABOUT THE SOCIAL POLICY FRAMEWORK

"I think if the community engagement meetings I've been to addressed more than one of those issues, it would fundamentally change the way we view a single 'issue'".

"I think it's a comprehensive way to package policy propositions. I think walking through the principles helps us understand the nuances of policy development and allows us to be critical of existing policy."

REPORTS

The Cost of Poverty in the Atlantic Provinces

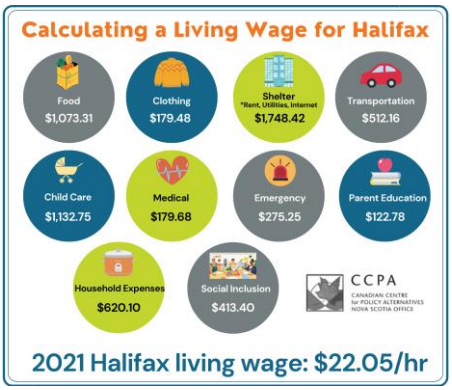


The Cost of Poverty shows the cost to the Atlantic provinces of not addressing poverty and documents the urgent need to do so. The Cost of Poverty in the Atlantic region ranges from $2 billion per year in Nova Scotia to $273 million in Prince Edward Island.

No Nova Scotian Should Have To Work Sick, The Urgent Need for Universal and Permanent Paid Sick Leave Legislation

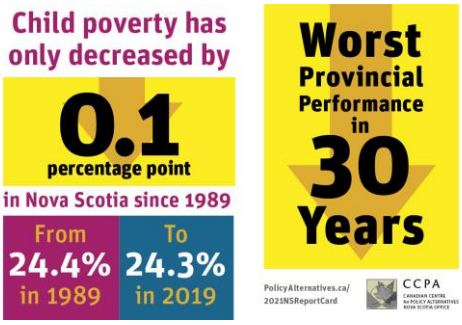
This report compared sick leave policies across Canada and critically analyzed their weaknesses and strengths. The authors reported on interviews about access to sick leave for three groups of essential workers in NS during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. The authors made recommendations about how to develop and implement the most effective sick leave policy in Nova Scotia.

Living Wages in Nova Scotia 2021, Working for a Living, Not Living to Work



The 2021 Living Wages in Nova Scotia report covered for the first time, the 5 economic regions of NS. Annapolis valley (Annapolis, Kings, and Hants counties): $21.30, Cape Breton (Cape Breton, Inverness, Richmond and Victoria Counties): $18.45, Halifax (Halifax County): $22.05. Northern (Antigonish, Colchester, Cumberland, Guysborough, and Pictou counties): $19.20. Southern (Digby, Lunenburg, Queens, Shelburne, and Yarmouth counties): $21.03.

2021 Report Card on Child and Family Poverty in Nova Scotia



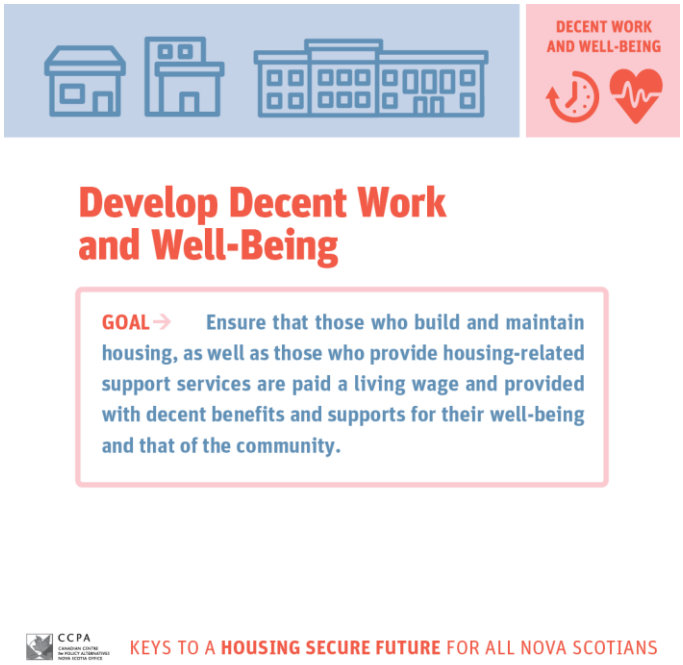
Between 1989 and 2019, child poverty rates decreased in every province and territory. However, Nova Scotia has performed the worst in reducing child poverty from 1989 levels. It has the highest rate in Atlantic Canada and the third-highest provincial child poverty rate in Canada, a consistent ranking over the last several years. The report highlights provincial data and provides 17 recommendations to the NS government to eradicate poverty.

KEYS TO A HOUSING SECURE FUTURE FOR ALL NOVA SCOTIANS

In 2021 we released, *Keys to a housing secure future for all Nova Scotians*, a detailed report that provides 95 costed recommendations on how to ensure every Nova Scotian has access to safe, secure, adequate, supported and permanently affordable housing. This report was the work of the Housing for All Working Group, a diverse collective of 40+ individuals that came to consensus on the extensive recommendations.

The Social Policy Framework principles underpin the Housing report, guiding the working group's research and framing of recommendations.

A member of the Housing for all Working Group shared this experience of the process: "Last Spring, a group of more than 50 housing advocates, housing and services providers worked together under the leadership of the CCPA-NS office to develop a process, a report and 95 recommendations that would culminate in 'Keys to a housing secure future for all Nova Scotians.' It was no easy task. We gathered together online – folks from across the province – on a number of occasions. The CCPA coordinated contributions, listened, revised, analyzed complex and sometimes confusing information. The team synthesized wide-ranging knowledge and experience and produced a report that stands as testimony for what advocates have seen, are seeing and what we know can create a better future for all Nova Scotians."



CCPA-NS IN THE MEDIA

Dec 1

"Poverty isn't inevitable. This is very much about government making choices about what their priorities are and what we can do, how we spend government money. This is systemic and policy created."

THE STAR | Christine Saulnier

Nov 25

"Our systems and supports should already be strong enough to endure a shock. Isn't that the point of a safety net?"

UNRAVEL | Christine Saulnier

Nov 24

"When we look at other provinces that have performed much better than NS over the 30 years, they invested enough to lift more children out of poverty than NS has. That percentage point is shocking, why haven't we moved that mark?"

SALTWIRE ATLANTIC | Christine Saulnier

May 26

"This is not some kind of utopian ideal or fantasy. This is very possible. This is a 10-year plan for every single one of us to have a place to live that we can call home." (Keys to housing report)

HALIFAX EXAMINER | Catherine Leviten-Reid

April 16

"It's critical that the government is responsible for its decisions between elections. The very heart of any democracy is how easy it is to hold the government to account."

SALTWIRE ATLANTIC | Christine Saulnier

OP-EDS & BLOGS

Paying a Living wage key to Canada's post-COVID economic recovery

TORONTO STAR

November 8

8 ways to improve on Nova Scotia's affordable housing initiative

SALTWIRE ATLANTIC

October 29

Providing Housing for All in Nova Scotia: It is about more than housing supply

THE MONITOR ONLINE

October 18

Nova Scotia government- appointed body falls short on affordable housing crisis

SALTWIRE NOVA SCOTIA

June 29

Keys to tackling the affordable housing crisis in Nova Scotia

THE MONITOR ONLINE

June 22

Time to address the cost of poverty in the Atlantic province

THE MONITOR ONLINE

April 8

Poverty in Atlantic Canada has an economic cost-billions in unrealized potential

SALTWIRE NOVA SCOTIA
April 6

Nova Scotia Budget focuses on regaining surplus, not caring for people

SALTWIRE NOVA SCOTIA

March 31

STATEMENT OF REVENUE & EXPENDITURES

Revenue		2021
Organizational Donations	$	71,870.00
Individual Donations	$	74,400.00
Fundraiser	$	24,883.00
Project Funding	$	55,100.00
Other (includes Federal Wage Subsidy)	$	36,854.71
Total	$	263,107.71

Expenses		
Personnel	$	197,816.05
Administration	$	5,186.71
Outreach	$	1,710.93
Publication	$	6,150.78
Fundraising		2061.75
Total	$	212,926.22
Surplus (Deficit)	$	50,181.49

THANK YOU TO OUR ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORTERS

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Acadia University Faculty Association

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ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA UNIVERSITY TEACHERS

CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS
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Mount Saint Vincent University Faculty Association

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NOVA SCOTIA GOVERNMENT & GENERAL EMPLOYEES UNION

Nova Scotia Nurses' Union

Nova Scotia
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NOVA SCOTIA UNION
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SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY | FACULTY OF ARTS

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS & AUTHORS

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Adsum for Women & Children

Campaign 2000, National Steering Committee

Human Development Council

PEI Coalition for a Poverty Eradication Strategy

Phoenix Youth Programs

Shelter Nova Scotia

The MacKillop Centre for Social Justice

The New Brunswick Common Front for Social Justice

The Nova Scotia College of Social Work

The Social Justice Cooperative of Newfoundland and Labrador

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THANK YOU CONTINUED

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Women's Centres Connect

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"It's exciting, and encouraging, to see how research and principles can move out beyond binders on shelves and into tangible action with real outcomes for people. It's one of the core strengths of the CCPA – taking real issues and moving them from academia into action that inches us closer to a just society. Their work, in the area of living wages alone, has had many positive effects for us and our community."

Sheri Lecker
Executive Director of Adsum for Women & Children

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