

Moving Beyond Fear, Infirmary and Isolation

Everyone will be relieved when the recovery from COVID begins. For most people, it will mean moving past the daily fear of risk of death, infirmity and isolation. For people who use drugs there will be no such relief.

COVID is only the most recent and short-lived crisis of danger, fear and death to strike illicit drug users and other marginalized and stigmatized groups. The drugs will continue to be poison, housing will continue to be intolerable (when it is available at all), the police will continue to criminalize and all systems of support will continue to ignore, stigmatize and oppress. If we recover from COVID and leave the issues of drug users, the homeless, marginalized, ill and racialized members of our society unaddressed, we will have failed...again.

We have seen governments act in bold and decisive ways in response to COVID. We must demand the same for these issues as well.