



Invitation to Attend the CSLS Seminar Series on Living Standards

Early Childhood Education and Inequality in Canada

Craig Alexander

4:00-5:30 PM

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Karsh Room, Rideau Club

99 Bank Street, 15th floor

Ottawa, Ontario

To attend, please RSVP by November 6 to andrew.sharpe@csls.ca.

Income inequality has been on an upward trend in Canada in recent decades. A number of policies have been put forward to reverse this trend. One of the most promising is greater investments in early childhood education (ECE), which many believe would address the root causes of inequality in the unequal opportunities for education available to Canadians.

In this presentation, Craig Alexander for the Conference Board of Canada will provide an overview of a recent report on this issue. He will review the benefits of ECE for children, parents, the economy and society, with a focus on how ECE can reduce poverty and shift low income families up the income distribution. The analysis includes a long-term cost-benefit assessment which quantifies the potential increase in female labour force participation and long-term benefits to youth under different scenarios. The main recommendation is to increase accessibility and duration of early childhood learning to at least the OECD average, but with an aspirational goal of eventually reaching the average of top OECD countries.

Craig Alexander is Senior Vice-President and Chief Economist at the Conference Board of Canada. Craig also served as Senior Vice-President and Chief Economist for TD Bank Groups. Prior to joining the private sector, he spent four years as an economist at Statistics Canada. He is a strong supporter of literacy and a champion of the charitable sector, for which he received a Queen's Jubilee Medal. He is a former two-term president of the Canadian Association for Business Economics (CABE) and holds a graduate degree in economics from the University of Toronto.