



## Invitation to Attend the CSLS Seminar Series on Living Standards

### **Do Government Regulators Fail the Public Interest?**

Bruce Campbell  
4:00-5:30 PM  
Thursday, June 22, 2023  
Laurier Room, Rideau Club  
99 Bank Street, 15th floor  
Ottawa, Ontario

(please note that the Rideau Club dress code requires men to wear a jacket)

To attend, please RSVP by June 20, 2023 to [andrew.sharpe@csls.ca](mailto:andrew.sharpe@csls.ca).

July 6, 2023 marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lac Mégantic rail disaster. Many see this tragic event as an egregious example of public regulators favouring corporate interests at the expense of public safety.

In this seminar, Bruce Campbell will address the issue of whether regulatory agencies in Canada fail the public interest by examining the power relationship between corporations and government from the framework of regulatory capture. He will first provide a brief overview of the different interpretations, dimensions, manifestations, and consequences of regulatory capture theory. Drawing on his book *The Lac-Mégantic Rail Disaster: Public Betrayal Justice Denied* and his recently released edited volume, *Corporate Rules: The Real World of Business Regulation in Canada*, he will then develop a narrative of how and why Transport Canada failed to prevent the Lac-Mégantic disaster. He will make the case that there are too many examples related to the protection of health, safety and the environment where the regulator has subverted the public interest to profits. He will put forward proposals for escaping the regulatory capture straitjacket.

**Bruce Campbell** is an Adjunct Professor at York University, Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change, and a Senior Fellow at the Centre for Free Expression at Toronto Metropolitan University. From 1994 to 2015 he served as Executive Director of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. He was awarded a Law Foundation of Ontario Community Leadership in Justice Fellowship and spent 2016 as Visiting Fellow at the University of Ottawa Faculty of Law. He holds a BA in Economics from Bishop's University and a MA from the Norman Patterson School of International Affairs at Carleton University. He lives in Ottawa.