



Invitation to Attend the CSLS Seminar Series on Living Standards

Pharmacare: What Are the Issues?

Yves Giroux

3:30-5:00 PM

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Karsh 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 May 20, 2024 to andrew.sharpe@csls.ca

The federal government has recently announced ([Bill C-64](#)) a single-payer universal drug plan for Canada called Pharmacare to improve the accessibility and affordability of prescription drugs. It will initially cover insulin and contraception products and could be expanded significantly going forward. Should such a program be a national priority, and, if so, how would it work?

In this seminar, Parliamentary Budget Officer Yves Giroux will give a presentation on the issues related to Pharmacare. These issues include the integration of Pharmacare with employer drug plans which currently cover a large proportion of Canadians, the potential for lower drug prices arising from greater public sector buying power, and the fiscal impact for the public sector of Pharmacare expansion to cover most or all drugs. An October 2023 [PBO study](#) will be drawn upon to provide the context for the Pharmacare debate and to address the Pharmacare cost issue.

Yves Giroux is Canada's Parliamentary Budget Officer. Appointed in 2018, he previously held a number of executive level positions in the federal government, including in the Social Policy Division at Finance Canada, at the Privy Council Office, and at the Canada Revenue Agency. He earned a Master's and a Bachelor's degree in Economics from the Université de Montréal.