



Centre for the
Study of Living Standards
Centre d'étude des
niveaux de vie

Invitation to Attend the CSLS Seminar Series on Living Standards

Missing the Tide: Global Governments in Retreat

Donald J. Johnston
4:00-5:30 PM
Tuesday, February 20, 2018
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 February 18, 2018 to andrew.sharpe@csls.ca.

At the beginning of the 20th century optimism reigned and many felt that world leaders had the opportunity not only to meet the major global challenges, but to turn them into unprecedented opportunities for rapid and lasting social and economic progress for all humanity. But in less than two decades the situation has turned from hope to pessimism and despair. This is the narrative that Donald J. Johnston, former OECD Secretary-General, tells in his new book *Missing the Tide: Global Governments in Retreat*.

In this seminar Donald J. Johnston will develop this story, based on his experiences as OECD Secretary General from 1996 to 2006. He will first enumerate the many challenges that faced the world in the late 1990s, including globalization and climate change and tell how governments and international organizations were tackling these issues. He will then explain what went wrong, resulting in what he calls "economic, social and environmental wreckage." Finally, he will extract the lessons from this experience to help us collectively change direction and will outline his vision for the future.

Donald J. Johnston was first elected to the House of Commons in 1978 and served in the Trudeau Cabinet from 1980 to 1984 as President of the Treasury Board, Minister of State for Science and Technology and Minister of State for Economic and Regional Development. In 1996, he was appointed OECD Secretary-General, the first non-European to hold this position. During his 10 year stewardship, the OECD took the global lead in many areas, including corporate governance and social responsibility, education, international tax and competition policy, and well-being research. Mr. Johnston is a graduate of McGill Law School, where he was a Gold Medalist.