



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

Invitation to Attend the CSLS Seminar Series on Living Standards

The Economic Policies of the Jean Chrétien Government: An Assessment

Bob Plamondon
4:00-5:30 PM
Thursday, January 18, 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 January 16, 2018 to andrew.sharpe@csls.ca.

The second half of the 1990s saw a massive improvement in the fiscal position of the federal government, following measures taken in the 1995 budget. Whatever credit the Chretien government deserved for this development is often given to Finance Minister Paul Martin, touted as the brains behind the operation. In his new book *The Shawingan Fox: How Jean Chrétien Defied the Elites and Reshaped Canada*, Bob Plamondon takes issue with this view, arguing that Prime Minister Chrétien placed an equally important, if underappreciated, role.

In this presentation, Bob will review the economic developments and economic policy decisions in the 1993-2003 period, providing new insights on the role Prime Minister Chretien played in this process. He will make the case that Chretien made significant contributions to economic policy in this country, not only in terms of fiscal policy, but also in areas such as social programs (e.g. enhanced child benefits, and CPP reform) and educational infrastructure (e.g. Canada Research Chairs and the Canada Innovation Foundation). To cite the book's cover

“Until now, the story of Chretien's time as prime minister has been largely misunderstood. Plamondon sets the record straight and provides compelling lessons about political leadership and problem solving from a critical chapter in Canadian history.”

Bob Plamondon is a well-known political commentator and public policy expert. He received a Bachelor of Commerce and Masters of Management Studies from Carleton University and is a Chartered Accountant. He has written four earlier books: *The Truth About Trudeau*; *Blue Thunder: The Truth about Conservatives from Macdonald to Harper*; *Full Circle: Death and Resurrection in Canadian Conservative Politics*; and *Hay West: A Story of Canadians Helping Canadians*. Bob has taught at three universities on a full and part-time basis over a twenty-year period. An avid runner, Bob has completed 10 marathons, including twice in Boston.