



Invitation to Attend the CSLS Seminar Series on Living Standards

Understanding Canada's Productivity "Emergency"

Andrew Sharpe

3:30-5:00 PM

Wednesday, May 1, 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 April 29, 2024 to andrew.sharpe@csls.ca.

It is well known that Canada's productivity performance has been weak, both historically, and relative to other countries, in recent years. This situation made headlines in late March when the Senior Deputy Governor of the Bank of Canada in a speech characterized Canada's productivity performance as an economic "emergency."

In this seminar Andrew Sharpe, Executive Director of the Centre for the Study of Living Standards, will provide a comprehensive overview of productivity in Canada. Drawing on over 40 years of research on the productivity issue, he will first lay out productivity performance by productivity metric, time period, sources of productivity growth, industry and province, and within-sector versus re-allocation effects. He will then discuss the possible explanations for Canada's abysmal productivity performance, including a slower pace of underlying technical change, measurement issues, inadequate investment, pandemic effects and regulation. He will conclude with his perspective on the importance of productivity compared to other economic variables and on what he sees as an agenda to boost productivity growth in this country.

Andrew Sharpe is founder and Executive Director of the Ottawa-based Centre for the Study of Living Standards (CSLS). He has held a variety of earlier positions, including Head of Research at the Canadian Labour Market and Productivity Centre and Chief, Business Sector Analysis at the Department of Finance. He holds a M.A. and Ph.D in economics from McGill University, a maitrise in urban geography from the Université de Paris-Sorbonne, and a B.A. from the University of Toronto. He is also founder and Editor of the *International Productivity Monitor*, co-developer (with Lars Osberg) of the composite Index of Economic Well-being, and Executive Director of the International Association for Research on Income and Wealth.