



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

### Why Nations Need Comprehensive Productivity Strategies

Robert Atkinson  
4:00-5:30 PM  
Thursday, September 22, 2016  
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 September 19, 2016 to [andrew.sharpe@csls.ca](mailto:andrew.sharpe@csls.ca).

A key challenge facing public policy in Canada is to improve the nation's productivity performance. In this seminar Robert Atkinson, founder and President of the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation in Washington, will make the case why nations need comprehensive strategies to foster productivity growth, drawing on his recent book *Think Like an Enterprise: Why Nations Need Comprehensive Productivity Strategies* (available at <https://itif.org/publications/2016/05/04/think-enterprise-why-nations-need-comprehensive-productivity-strategies>)

Atkinson will present his diagnosis of the productivity issue and inadequacies of current approaches to productivity and innovation policy. He will then put forward his agenda for productivity improvement, which features a more active public policy role including measures to lower the price of capital, moral suasion for firms to think more strategically, more direct government involvement in developing and disseminating new technologies.

**Robert E. Atkinson** is President of the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF), a Washington-based think tank focusing on technological innovation and public policy. Before founding the ITIF in 2006, he was Vice-President of the Progressive Policy Institute and a project director at the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment. He has written extensively on innovation issues, including *Innovation Economics: The Race for Global Advantage* (Yale University Press, 2012). He currently serves as co-chair of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy's China-U.S. Innovation Policy Experts Group, as a member of the U.S. State Department's Advisory Committee on International Communications and Information Policy, and the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Advisory Council on Innovation and Entrepreneurship. He holds a Ph.D. in city and regional planning from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.