Invitation to Attend the CSLS
Seminar Series on Living Standards

Framing the New Inequality: The Politics of Income Redistribution in Canada

Keith Banting
4:00-5:30 PM
Thursday, June 18, 2015
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 June 16, 2015 to andrew.sharpe@csls.ca.

Canada is currently engaged in a struggle to define or "frame" the changes occurring in the distribution of income and the social stresses they are bring about. What is happening? Why is it happening? Is it a policy problem? There are multiple answers to these questions and the result is flux in our policy debates.

In this seminar Keith Banting will examine three frames that contend for attention: an historic anti-poverty frame, a more recent top 1 per cent frame, and a still contentious middle-class frame. All three call for significant income redistribution, although in different forms. He will argue however that a move to stronger redistribution would confront serious constraints from established policy norms and the unequal representation of economic interests and that only electoral politics can generate the momentum need to challenge the status quo. The prospects for such momentum hinge on whether middle-class voters see their interests aligned with those of high-income groups or low-income groups.

Keith Banting is the Queen's Research Chair in Public Policy and a professor in the Department of Political Studies and the School of Policy Studies. His research interests focus on public policy, especially social policy, in Canada and other contemporary democracies. He is the author and editor of twenty books. He earned his BA (Hon) from Queen's University and his doctorate from Oxford University. In 2004, he was appointed a member of the Order of Canada. In 2012, he was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Centre for the Study of Living Standards.