



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

### **Some Assembly Required: STEM Skills and Canada's Economic Productivity**

David Dodge  
4:00-5:30 PM  
Thursday, June 4, 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 May 12, 2015 to [andrew.sharpe@csls.ca](mailto:andrew.sharpe@csls.ca).

On April 30, 2015, the Council of Canadian Academies (CCA) released an expert panel report that assessed how well Canada is prepared to meet future skill requirements in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The panel was chaired by David Dodge. In this seminar, David will review the charge of the panel, discuss the definition of STEM skills, outline the assessment framework, and present the key findings.

The panel did not find evidence of a current imbalance in advanced STEM skills nationally, suggesting that the source of Canada's productivity problem is not a shortage of advanced STEM skills. It did find however that STEM skills are necessary, but not sufficient, for innovation and productivity growth. The panel identified three types of STEM skills: fundamental, practical, and advanced.

Recognizing that long-term labour market demands are difficult to predict, the panel concluded that it is not possible to definitively determine what skills and knowledge will be required for the jobs of the future. The panel highlighted the value of early childhood interventions in strengthening fundamental skills. It also observed that Canada's STEM skill supply must be broadened to include better representation from under-represented populations such as women and Aboriginal Canadians.

The CCA report is available at <http://www.scienceadvice.ca/en/news.aspx?id=148>

David Dodge is currently Senior Advisor at Bennett Jones LLP. He enjoyed a stellar career in the federal public service, including serving as Deputy Minister of Finance, Deputy Minister of Health, and Governor of the Bank of Canada. He has headed many boards and advisory groups, including serving as Chancellor of Queen's University. He holds a BA from Queens University and a PhD from Princeton University, both in economics.