



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

### **Cathedrals in the Desert? Universities as Instruments of Regional Development in Canada**

Herb Emery  
4:00-5:30 PM  
Tuesday, June 25, 2019  
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 21, 2019 to [andrew.sharpe@csls.ca](mailto:andrew.sharpe@csls.ca).

Universities are perceived to be sources of knowledge spillovers which are positive externalities in terms of encouraging industrial agglomeration and higher incomes in the local economy. But there is surprisingly little empirical evidence to demonstrate that universities do, in fact, have positive impacts on the regional economy.

In this seminar, Herb Emery, a leading expert on regional development, will explore the relationship between university enrolment and expenditures and output, employment, and productivity growth in Canada from 2000 to 2014. He finds that on the margin research funding and expenditures on universities have no effect on the growth of the regional economy. However, for the six smallest provinces, increases in undergraduate engineering enrolment were positively associated with GDP growth, labour productivity growth and total factor productivity (innovation), suggesting that faculties of engineering may be a source of knowledge spillovers that compensate for the lack of scale economies from agglomeration in the region. The policy implications of these findings will be discussed.

**Herb Emery** holds the Vaughan Chair in Regional Economics at the University of New Brunswick. His research focuses on the development of the Canadian economy and the persistence of long-standing regional disparities. He taught at the University of Calgary from 1993 to 2016 where he served as Research Director for The School of Public Policy and held the Svare Professor in Health Economics. From 2010 to 2015, he served as Managing Editor of *Canadian Public Policy*. He holds an MA and PhD in Economics from the University of British Columbia.