



Invitation to Attend the CSLS Seminar Series on Living Standards

Quebec Child-Care at 20: Impacts on Labour Markets, Fiscal Costs and Child Development

Pierre Fortin
4:00-5:30 PM
Wednesday, April 24, 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 April 22, 2019 to andrew.sharpe@csls.ca.

A key social policy development in Canada in the 1990s was the establishment of a Scandinavian-type of low fee child-care scheme in Quebec. In this presentation, well-known Quebec economist Pierre Fortin will provide an assessment of Quebec child-care after two decades. He will first examine the strengths of the program, including boosting the labour force participation rate of young women to the highest level worldwide at zero net fiscal cost. He will then address the challenges, in particular finding that the impact of the program on child development has been found so far to be mixed on average. He will argue that this is because the provincial government has allowed quality standards to be highly variable across the several types of care and could be fixed by imposing high quality standards.

Pierre Fortin is professor emeritus of economics at the Université du Québec à Montréal, member of the Royal Society of Canada, and past president of the Canadian Economics Association. His research career has focused on economic growth and fluctuations, monetary and fiscal policies, income security and public finances. He was the Senior Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister of Quebec and a member of the Committee of Economic Advisers to the Minister of Finance of Canada. He chaired government task forces on business investment, income security and the agri-food industry. He holds a BA in Classical Humanities from the Collège des Jésuites in Quebec, a MA in Mathematics from the Université de Montréal and a PhD in Economics from the University of California, Berkeley. He is founding member of the Board of Directors of the Centre for the Study of Living Standards.