



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

### **The eHealth Story in Ontario: An Insider's Perspective**

Ray Hession  
4:00-5:30 PM  
Thursday, January 19, 2017  
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 January 17, 2017 to [andrew.sharpe@csls.ca](mailto:andrew.sharpe@csls.ca).

The health care sector is considered by many to suffer from Baumol's cost disease. Because of the personal nature of health services, productivity gains are difficult, resulting in rising costs. Electronic health records (EHR) have been seen as a means to improve both health care sector productivity and the quality of health care services and to reduce costs. Established in 2008, eHealth Ontario was tasked to create a secure EHR system where medical information could be easily accessed by health care professionals, resulting in more informed decisions.

In this seminar, Ray Hession, Chair of eHealth Ontario, will provide an account of the implementation of a system of EHR in Ontario from his unique perspective. He will first discuss the history of the agency, including the motivation for its creation. He will then review its accomplishments to date, and what still needs to be done. He will highlight the many challenges encountered, such as software architecture and data standards, privacy concerns, system incompatibilities, doctor resistance, and policy barriers and how they have been addressed. Finally, he will situate Ontario's EHR experience relative to that of other jurisdictions.

Ray Hession has been Chair of eHealth Ontario's Board of Directors since 2010. He has had wide experience in governance and management in the private, public, community service and broader health sectors. He has served as President and CEO of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation; Deputy Minister of Supply and Services Canada and Regional Industrial Expansion Canada; Chairman and CEO of Paxport International and of Xios Corporation; and President of Hession, Neville and Associates (a government relations consultancy). He is a graduate in economics of the Royal Military College.