



*Centre for the
Study of Living Standards
Centre d'étude des
niveaux de vie*

Invitation to Attend the CSLS Seminar Series on Living Standards

Social Policy in an Enabling Society: The Need for a New Information Framework

Peter Hicks

4:00-5:30 PM
Tuesday, January 26, 2010
Laurier Room, Rideau Club
99 Bank Street, 15th floor
Ottawa, Ontario

To attend, please RSVP by January 22 to andrew.sharpe@csls.ca.

There have been many efforts over the years to develop an information framework to support social policies, including attempts to extend the SNA to the social side, time-based accounts and systems of social and demographic statistics. Peter Hicks argues that the lack of success of these initiatives is one factor in our failure to use the huge potential of current technology to make deep improvements in our social policies. It also results in fragmentation in our use of data and analysis across the different stages of the policy cycle.

In his presentation, Hicks argues that a fundamental shift is needed in the way governments approach statistical information and knowledge management, away from an exclusive focus on the data governments need to do their business and towards the information needs of citizens. He discusses recent Canadian efforts to develop an information framework that will support more coherent social policy analysis to promote an enabling society. He then assesses the weaknesses of these efforts and possible solutions.

Peter Hicks worked for many years as an Assistant Deputy Minister of policy in several federal government departments, mainly in the area of social and labour market policies. During the period 1995 to 2001, he worked for the OECD in Paris, coordinating their activities on the policy implications of aging societies. Since his return to Canada he has worked with Social Development Canada, HRSDC, the Policy Research Initiative, the Social Research and Demonstration Corporation, the Privy Council Office, and the Canada Public Service Agency. He also taught a graduate social policy course at Queens University.