



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

### **The Report of the Commission for Review of Social Assistance in Ontario: An Overview**

Munir Sheikh

4:00-5:30 PM  
Tuesday, November 27, 2012  
Karsh Room, Rideau Club  
99 Bank Street, 15th floor  
Ottawa, Ontario

To attend, please RSVP by November 23 to [andrew.sharpe@csls.ca](mailto:andrew.sharpe@csls.ca).

On October 24, 2012 the Commission for the Review of Social Assistance in Ontario released its report *Brighter Prospects: Transforming Social Assistance in Ontario*. The report argued that Ontario's social assistance system must do a better job of helping people move into employment and must support all recipients, including those with disabilities, to participate in the workforce to the maximum of their abilities. It recommended sweeping reforms to create paths to employment and out of poverty.

In the seminar Munir Sheikh, one of the two commissioners for the report, will present the major findings of the report and put forward the key recommendations, which chart a new course for social assistance towards a simpler, more effective and accountable system that removes barriers to employment and increases opportunities to work. These recommendations include replacing Ontario Works and the Ontario Disability Support Program with a single integrated program; simplifying the benefit structure; providing a clear point of accountability for the system through the appointment of a Provincial Commissioner for Social Assistance; and calling on the government to address the issue of rising income inequality. The report is available at [www.socialassistancereview.ca/final-report](http://www.socialassistancereview.ca/final-report).

Munir Sheikh served as co-Commissioner of Ontario's Social Assistance Review. He is currently a Distinguished Fellow and Adjunct Professor at Queen's University and a Distinguished Visiting Scholar at Carleton University. From June 2008 to July 2010 he served as the Chief Statistician of Canada. He also has served as Deputy Minister of Labour, Deputy Secretary to the Cabinet, Expenditure Review at the Privy Council Office, and Associate Deputy Minister at Health Canada and Finance Canada. He holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Western Ontario and a MA in Economics from McMaster University.