

QUEEN'S INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE ON SOCIAL POLICY



(Updated August 7, 2014)

THEME:

Middle-income Canadians are facing social and economic stresses at various stages of the life cycle. Many youth are struggling to find a solid footing in the new labour market. Young adults are delaying forming families. Displaced long-term older workers are suffering significant and persistent income losses. And many middle-income Canadians are facing problems building adequate retirement incomes.

These stresses are not unique to Canada. Across the OECD, powerful forces are at work. Technological change is altering the labour market, hollowing out the middle; wage and salary growth for low and middle-income earners is tepid; and inequality is on the rise. While the effects of these trends have been sharper in other countries like the United States, Canada is not immune.

The Queen's 2014 International Social Policy Institute seeks to examine the economic and social trends affecting the middle class in Canada and other Western economies; assess the impacts on income, opportunity and resilience; and explore the robustness of current public policies in the areas of income, labour market, learning and social policy. As is the tradition of the Queen's Social Policy Institute, the perspectives of both Canadian and international experts will be brought to bear on these critical issues.

The Institute will seek to answer the following questions: What are the critical stresses facing middle income Canadians? Can we ensure equal life chances in the 21st century? What are the sources of resilience for individuals and families? Do we have a public policy tool kit that is fit for contemporary purposes?

Monday August 18, 2014

Welcome Reception

7:00 PM

Residence Inn by Marriott, Compass Rose Waterfront Park

(Alternate location in the case of inclement weather: St. Lawrence Ballroom)

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Tuesday August 19, 2014

Light Refreshments

8:00 AM Residence Inn by Marriott, St. Lawrence Ballroom

Welcome and Introduction

8:25 AM **KEITH BANTING**, Professor and Research Chair in Public Policy, Queen's University

8:30 – 10:30 AM

The Big Picture: Inequality and the Middle Class

Chair: **MARG RAPPOLT**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Community and Social Service, Ontario

1. **MICHAEL FÖRSTER**, Principal Administrator, Senior Policy Analyst, Social Policy Division, OECD
2. **MILES CORAK**, Professor, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, University of Ottawa
3. **FRANK GRAVES**, President, Ekos Research

10:30 – 10:45 AM BREAK

10:45 AM – 12:15 PM

Education and Skills

Chair: **DEBORAH NEWMAN**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, Ontario

1. **RICHARD REEVES**, Policy Director, Centre on Children and Families, Brookings Institution, USA
2. **CRAIG ALEXANDER**, Senior Vice President and Chief Economist, TD Bank.

12:15 – 1:15 PM LUNCH

1:15 – 2:45 PM

Redistribution: Taxes, Transfers and Wage Policies

Chair: **IAN SHUGART**, Deputy Minister, Employment and Social Development Canada

1. **CHARLES BEACH**, Professor, Department of Economics, Queen's University
2. **ANDREW HEISZ**, Chief, Longitudinal and International Study of Adults, Statistics Canada

2:45 – 3:00 PM BREAK

3:00 – 4:30 PM

Young Families

Chair: **PAT WALCOTT**, General Manager, Employment and Social Services, City of Toronto

1. **SPENCER THOMPSON**, Senior Economic Analyst, Institute for Public Policy Research, UK
2. **PAUL KERSHAW**, Associate Professor, School of Population and Public Health, University of British Columbia; founder of Generation Squeeze

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Reception

5:30 PM Residence Inn by Marriott, Compass Rose Waterfront Park
(Alternate location in the case of inclement weather: St. Lawrence Ballroom)

Dinner

6:30 PM Residence Inn by Marriott, St. Lawrence Ballroom

Wednesday August 20, 2014**Light Refreshments**

8:00 AM Residence Inn by Marriott, St. Lawrence Ballroom

8:30 – 10:15 AM

Retirement Income

Chair: PATRICK DEUTSCHER, Amethyst Fellow, School of Policy Studies, Queen's University

1. **HERVE BOULHOL**, Senior Economist, Social Policy Division, OECD
 2. **HUGH MACKENZIE**, Researcher and Economist, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives
 3. **TAMMY SCHIRLE**, Associate Professor, Wilfrid Laurier University
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10:15 – 10:30 AM BREAK

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Displaced Long-term Workers

Chair: SOPHIE DENNIS, Acting Deputy Minister, Ministry of Labour, Ontario

1. **RANDALL W. EBERTS**, President, Upjohn Institute, USA
 2. **CRAIG RIDDELL**, Professor, Vancouver School of Economics, University of British Columbia
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12:00 – 1:00 PM LUNCH

1:00 – 2:45 PM

What does the middle class want?

Chair: **HUGH SEGAL**, Master, Massey College, University of Toronto

1. **DAVID HERLE**, Canadian Political Consultant and Principal Partner, The Gandalf Group
 2. **KATHLEEN MONK**, Political Consultant
 3. **TASHA KHEIRIDDIN**, Writer and Broadcaster, Columnist for the National Post
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2:45 PM CONFERENCE ENDS
