



BEYOND GDP: TRENDS IN ECONOMIC WELL-BEING IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR, 1981-2017

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS VISITING SPEAKER:
DR. ANDREW SHARPE

Andrew Sharpe is founder and Executive Director of the Ottawa-based Centre for the Study of Living Standards (CSLS). Established in 1995, CSLS is a national, independent, non-profit research organization whose main objective is to study trends and determinants of productivity, living standards and economic well-being. He has held a variety of earlier positions, including Head of Research at the Canadian Labour Market and Productivity Centre and Chief, Business Sector Analysis at Finance Canada. He holds a M.A. and Ph.D in economics from McGill University, a maitrise in urban geography from the Université de Paris-Sorbonne, and a B.A. from the University of Toronto. He is also founder and Editor of the International Productivity Monitor, co-developer (with Lars Osberg) of the composite Index of Economic Well-being, a consultant to the World Bank on labor market issues, and Executive Director of the International Association for Research on Income and Wealth (IARIW), an international research association dedicated to the advancement of knowledge relating to income and wealth.

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In recent years the deficiencies of GDP as a measure of well-being have been increasingly recognized. This has led to the development of alternatives metrics of well-being. One of the measures is the Index of Economic Well-being (IEWB) constructed by the Centre for the Study of Living Standards (CSLS).

In the presentation CSLS Executive Director Andrew Sharpe will first review the structure of the IEWB, which is based on four domains – consumption, stocks of wealth, inequality, and economic security – and 28 specific indicators. He will also highlight key methodological and data issues in the construction of the IEWB. He will then discuss trends in the IEWB and its components in Newfoundland and Labrador, highlighting the drivers of the changes and compare developments to those in Canada and in other provinces and to GDP per capita.

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Arts and Administration Building, Room A1043

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