



# Canadian Labour Market and Skills Researcher Network (CLSRN) Newsletter

*The CLSRN: A leading centre of Canadian Labour Market Research*

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 1

SPRING 2012

## CLSRN's "Challenges for Canada's Retirement Income System" program provides important research-based guidance for retirement policy in Canada

In 1980, life expectancy for a man in Canada was 72 years of age. By 2008, the average Canadian man is expected to live 7 years longer to age 79. Life expectancy for women has also increased from 79 to 83.<sup>1</sup> Assuming per person expenditures of \$30,000 per year, 7 years of extra expenditures would add up to \$210,000 more to support a male retiree in 2008 compared to a male retiree in 1980. Canadians are living longer, and longer life expectancies mean that retirement savings will have to last longer than in previous decades. Increasing life expectancy will also put pressure on Canada's public retirement income systems such as Old Age Security (OAS), the Canadian Pension Plan (CPP), Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS), as well as other public support systems.

The CLSRN's *Challenges for Canada's retirement income system (RIS)*: a two-year multi-project research program which was made possible through funding from Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC), held a workshop in Ottawa on May 8, 2012.

The team of researchers has been led by Kevin Milligan (UBC) and Tammy Schirle (Wilfrid Laurier), in co-ordination with Alex Grey, Chris Poole, and John Rietschlin from HRSDC. The focus of the research program is to find out whether the three pillars of Canada's retirement income system are designed to ensure that retirees have an adequate level of income for their retirement years. Several components of the research program will provide vital information for policy planning and formation.

Research projects include:  
*Employer-provided pensions, incomes, and hardship in early transitions to retirement*  
Kevin Milligan

*Estimating the number of GIS recipients who have mistakenly saved in RRSPs (and RPPs)*  
Michael R. Veall

*Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) Status Amongst the Retired Population – An Analysis of the Incidence and the Dynamics*  
David Gray and Ross Finnie



**The CLSRN's Challenges for Retirement Income System program brought together retirement experts from both government and academia for an in-depth examination of Canada's Retirement Income system to promote research-based policy-making with regards to Canada's Retirement Income strategy.**

### Special points of interest:

- CLSRN "Challenges for Canada's Retirement Income System"
- McCracken Award: CLSRN Affiliates among winners
- 6th Annual Conference: Calgary, Alberta
- Call For Papers: CRDCN Conference, October 23-24, 2012.
- CLSRN's 100th Working Paper

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<sup>1</sup>Statistics Canada. Accessed Online: June 10, 2012: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/tables-tableaux/sum-som/I01/cst01/health26-eng.htm>

## Retirement Program ... (Con't)

*How do the level and composition of income change after retirement? – evidence from the LAD*  
Ross Finnie and Byron Spencer

*Impacts of cyclical downturns on the third pillar of the RIS and potential policy responses*  
James B. Davies

*The incidence of low income among seniors in Canada*  
Tammy Schirle

*Retirement Incomes and Labour Supply of Older Immigrants in Canada: 1991-2006*  
Ted McDonald and Christopher Worswick

*Sources de revenu de retraite au Québec 2004-2030: une analyse de microsimulation*  
Nicholas-James Clavet, Jean-Yves Duclos and Bernard Fortin

These papers will be available in the [CLSRN Working Paper Series](#) in the near future. Thank you to all the program directors, authors, discussants, policy makers and HRSDC for making this important contribution to Canada's Retirement Income strategy and policy-making.

## CLSRN Affiliates win the Mike McCracken Award

The CLSRN is pleased to note that CLSRN affiliates Charles M. Beach and Garnett Picot, as well as CLSRN Academic Director Craig Riddell have been awarded the Mike McCracken Award along with Ging Wong of Queen's University, during the Canadian Economics Association Meetings in Calgary, June 2012.

The Mike McCracken Award for Economic Statistics recognizes both theoretical and applied contributions that have contributed in important ways to the development or use of official economic statistics.

Contributions in the development of the economic framework and concepts for measurement, statistical and econometric tools, information technology innovations and applications, innovations that enhance the policy relevance of official economic statistics, contributions to the management of statistical programs, and contributions to improving public access to and understanding of official economic statistics are all relevant.

### **Charles M. Beach:**

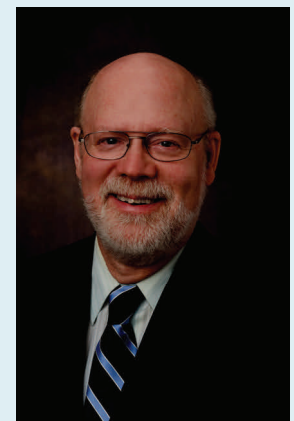
Charles Beach is Professor of Economics at Queen's University where he has taught since 1972. He was a co-founder of the Canadian Econometric Study Group, co-initiator of the Canadian Household Panel Survey initiative, co-founding member of the Canadian Employment Research Forum, and Chair of the Data Liberation Initiative. He was also part of the founding Board for CERF (the Canadian Employment Research Forum). He has served as adviser to numerous government departments and agencies. From 1995 to 2002, he was Editor of Canadian Public Policy/Analyse de Politiques. He was Director of the John Deutsch Institute from 2001 to 2009. Dr. Beach was also a member of CLSRN academic leadership from 2007 to 2011

### **Garnett Picot:**

Garnett Picot was until recently Director-General of Research for Statistics Canada. He continues to teach in the Queen's University School of Policy Studies each summer and is a Research Fellow at both the Institute for Research in Public Policy and Statistics Canada. Mr. Picot has wide-ranging research interests related primarily to labour market analysis. He is on the executive committee of both the Canadian Economics Association and the Canadian Labour Market and Skills Research Network, and was past co-chair of the Canadian Employment Research Network. He was also part of the founding Board for CERF (the Canadian Employment Research Forum), and is a past Government Co-Chair of the CERF Board.



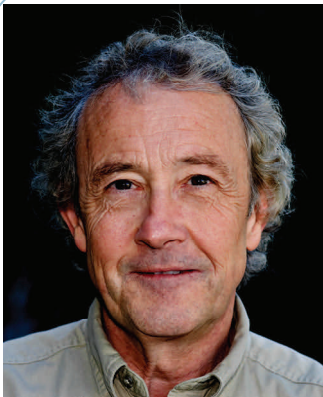
CLSRN Director Craig Riddell (UBC) and CLSRN Retirement Program Directors Tammy Schirle (Wilfrid Laurier University) and Kevin Milligan (UBC) at the CLSRN Retirement Workshop in Ottawa: May 8, 2012



Charles Beach (Queen's University)



Garnett Picot (Queen's University and Statistics Canada)



W. Craig Riddell (UBC)

## Mike McCracken Award... (con't)

### W. Craig Riddell:

W. Craig Riddell is Royal Bank Faculty Research Professor in the Department of Economics at the University of British Columbia and Academic Director of the Canadian Labour Market and Skills Research Network. Professor Riddell is former Head of the Department of Economics at UBC, Past-President of the Canadian Economics Association and former Academic Co-Chair of CERF (the Canadian Employment Research Forum). He currently serves on Statistics Canada's Advisory Committee on Labour and Income Statistics and on the Board of Directors of the Centre for the Study of Living Standards. In 2007-08 he was a member of the Expert Panel on Older Workers established by the Government of Canada.

### Ging Wong:

Ging Wong is currently with the Queen's University, School of Policy Studies where he is a Fellow with the Centre for Studies on Democracy and Diversity and an Adjunct Professor teaching courses he developed that have become valued parts of the curriculum in the School of Policy Studies. He is also an adjunct professor at Wuhan University in China where he has played a long-term development role. In his 28 years of public service, he served as an executive at HRSDC where he built up and ran what for years was Ottawa's best and biggest program evaluation group. He also held positions at the Privy Council Office and Heritage Canada. He was also part of the founding Board for CERF (the Canadian Employment Research Forum), he is a past Government Co-Chair of the CERF Board, and he serves on the current CERF Board.



Ging Wong (Queen's University)

## CLSRN Completes SSHRC Midterm Review

The CLSRN is funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), through its Strategic Knowledge Clusters program. In the Spring and Summer of 2011, the CLSRN successfully completed a SSHRC Midterm review ensuring that the network is on-track to completing its objectives of:

- increasing the policy relevance of academic research on Canadian labour market behaviour;
- building ongoing connections:
  - between the research community and key public policy decision makers;
  - within the community of experts in Canadian labour market and skills research – whether in the academic sector, the public sector, or the for-profit research sector;
  - between Canadian labour market scholars and their counterparts in other countries, thus enhancing the international impact of Canadian social science research;
- synthesizing and disseminating labour market research into the public domain to help support evidence-based decision making and informed public discourse across Canada, thus adding value to research projects already supported through other SSHRC programs;
- building on and enhancing an area of considerable strength in Canada – labour market research – and helping to ensure the emergence of a new generation of researchers with an interest in Canadian labour market policy;
- stimulating the use by academic researchers of Canadian data sources in the field of labour market and skills research, so that a greater public policy return on those data investments can be realized
- facilitating intellectual exchange and cross-fertilization of ideas among Canadian and foreign researchers and extending and enhancing international connections at all levels; and
- obtaining additional funding and securing financial and in-kind contributions in order to continue to facilitate researcher access to the resources necessary for first-rate research.

The SSHRC review committee judged that CLSRN has been successful in building partnerships. The committee also commented favourably on our efforts to contribute to the development of the next generation of Canadian labour market scholars, noting that “the student training part of the cluster is one of its greatest strengths.”

The CLSRN graciously acknowledges the support it receives from the SSHRC and is pleased to note the successful completion of its mid-term review.



The CLSRN's partnership with the SSHRC has allowed the network to build collaborative connections within academia, government, non-governmental bodies, and the media  
Image: [Freedigitalphotos.net](http://Freedigitalphotos.net)



**David Gray**  
(University of Ottawa) was on the Program Committee for the 6th Annual CLSRN Conference, which took place in Calgary, AB: June 7, 2012

## CLSRN 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, June 7, 2012: Calgary, Alberta

The Canadian Labour Market and Skills Researcher Network (CLSRN) held its sixth annual conference at the University of Calgary on June 7, 2012. The conference dovetailed with the annual meetings of the Canadian Economics Association which ran June 8-10, 2012.

The conference was included presentations on: natural experiments; institutions and policies; unemployment, vacancies, and earnings instability; and inequality and discrimination. Jeffrey Smith of the University of Michigan delivered the keynote lecture on the topic of performance management in education.

Papers presented include:

Rene Morissette, Ping Ching Winnie & Yuqian Lu (Statistics Canada)  
*Does Male Labour Supply Respond to Wages? Recent Evidence from Increases in World Oil Prices*

Mutlu Yuksel, Mevlude Akbulut-Yuksel (Dalhousie) & Melanie Khamis (Wesleyan)  
*Rubble Women: The Long-Term Effects of Postwar Reconstruction on Female Labor Market Outcomes*

David Green (UBC) & Pierre Brochu (Ottawa)  
*The Impact of Minimum Wages on Quit, Layoff and Hiring Rates*

Jorgen Hansen & Xingfei Liu (Concordia)  
*Estimating Labor Supply Responses and Welfare Participation: Using a Natural Experiment to Validate a Structural Labor Supply Model*

Brant Abbott (UBC), Giovanni Gallipoli (UBC), Costas Meghir (Yale University) & Giovanni Violante (NYU)  
*Equilibrium Effects of Education Policies*

Alice Nakamura (U of Alberta) & Stephen Woodbury (Michigan State University)  
*Indicators of Labour Demand*

Peter Gottschalk (Boston College) & Sis Zhang  
*From Individual Earnings Instability to Family Income Instability – Some Methodological Issues*

Marc Gendron (HRSDC)  
*The Consequences of Occupational Mobility in Canada: How Does a Change of Skills Required by an Occupation Affect Wages?*

Miles Corak (Ottawa), Matthew J. Lindquist (Stockholm), & Bhashkar Mazumder (Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago)  
*A Comparison of Upward and Downward Intergenerational Mobility in Canada, Sweden and the United States*

Marit Rehavi (UBC) & Sonja Starr (Michigan Law)  
*Racial Disparities in Federal Criminal Charging and its Consequences*

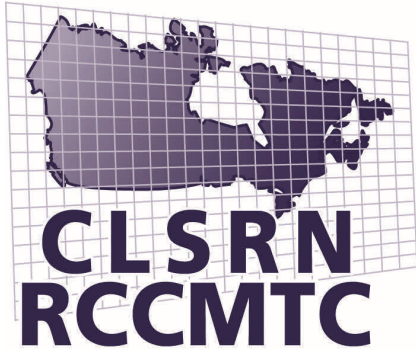
The Program Committee for this year's conference were:  
Shelley Phipps, Dalhousie University (Chair of Program Committee)  
Ana Ferrer, University of Calgary  
David Gray, University of Ottawa  
Thomas Lemieux, University of British Columbia  
Mikal Skuterud, University of Waterloo

The CLSRN would like to thank all the participants of its 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. The event was a success thanks to the quality of the research presented and the discussion and exchange of ideas the presentations enabled.

For more information about future CLSRN conferences, workshops and events, please contact Vivian Tran at [Vivian.Tran@ubc.ca](mailto:Vivian.Tran@ubc.ca) to be added to the CLSRN distribution list.



It was a full house at this year's 6th Annual CLSRN Conference in Calgary, AB. The conference dovetailed with the Annual Meetings of the Canadian Economics Association and featured a Keynote address by Jeffrey Smith (University of Michigan)



#### The Canadian Labour Market and Skills Researcher Network (CLSRN)

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The CLSRN ([www.clsrn.econ.ubc.ca](http://www.clsrn.econ.ubc.ca)) is a network of academic researchers interested in strengthening the understanding of the Canadian labour market. Based at the University of British Columbia, and national in scope, the CLSRN consists of established scholars and promising new researchers from the fields of economics, industrial relations, political science, sociology, business, history, policy studies and labour studies. The CLSRN was established as a multipartite partnership between academic researchers, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) and Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC). CLSRN is funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) under its Strategic Knowledge Clusters Program. Research activities of CLSRN are carried out with support of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC).

## Upcoming Events/Call for Papers

The following is a list of upcoming events that may be of interest to CLSRN members:

- Rimini Centre for Economic Analysis: "Conference Cities, Open Economies, and Public Policy": Toronto, August 2012. The CLSRN is sponsoring a session at this conference.
- CLSRN/Social Research and Demonstration Corporation (SRDC) Research Program on Adult Learning Conference — Fall 2012. Co-sponsored between CLSRN, HRSDC, and the SRDC.
- Call for Papers: Canadian Research Data Centre Network (CRDCN) Annual Conference: "Evidence-Based Policy Formation and Evaluation" October 23-24, 2012, Fredericton, NB. Deadline for submissions: June 29, 2012. Late submissions will be considered. For more information and online submission please visit: <http://www.rdc-cdr.ca/crdcn-2012-national-conference>

For more information about these events please follow the CLSRN's Twitter Feed ([www.twitter.com/CLSRN](http://www.twitter.com/CLSRN)) or email [Vivian.Tran@ubc.ca](mailto:Vivian.Tran@ubc.ca) to join the CLSRN mailing list.



The Canadian Research Data Centre Network (CRDCN) will be holding its Annual Conference "Evidence-Based Policy Formation and Evaluation" October 23-24, 2012 in Fredericton, NB. Deadline for submissions is June 29, 2012. Late submissions will be considered. More information can be obtained at: <http://www.rdc-cdr.ca/crdcn-2012-national-conference>

## The CLSRN Celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> Working Paper

The CLSRN is pleased to note the release of its 100<sup>th</sup> Working Paper this May. We are delighted to commemorate this milestone with a paper written by five UBC-based co-authors who played key roles in the founding and development of CLSRN.

### CLSRN Working Paper no. 100

#### Abstract Résumé

"Canadian Inequality: Recent Developments and Policy Options"

Nicole M. Fortin (University of British Columbia)  
David A. Green (University of British Columbia)  
Thomas Lemieux (University of British Columbia)  
Kevin Milligan (University of British Columbia)  
W. Craig Riddell (University of British Columbia)

The paper received immediate attention in the media and has been featured in the Huffington Post, the Globe and Mail, the Calgary Herald, the Toronto Star, the Victoria Times-Colonist, and the Lang and O'Leary Exchange since its release in the CLSRN Working Paper series. The paper is forthcoming in the next issue of *Canadian Public Policy/Analyse de politiques*.