

This bulletin is a quick inventory of recent social research information. Its purpose is to promptly disseminate the most current external and internal research relevant to social policy.

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**Throwing Money at the Problem: 10 Years of Executive Compensation** by Hugh Mackenzie, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, January 2017.

Over the past 10 years, compensation for Canada's 100 highest paid CEOs has proven to be resilient in nature, weathering all kinds of economic storms, and continually breaking new highs. Total compensation for Canada's 100 highest paid CEOs in 2015 hit a historic high, registering at \$9.5 million — 193 times the average industrial wage in Canada

- On the first working day of every year, the average of the 100 highest paid CEOs in Canada already pocket what it takes the average Canadian an entire year to earn
- The average of the top 100 CEOs made \$9.545 million; a Canadian working 52 weeks at the average weekly earnings rate for 2015 of \$952.11 would have earned \$49,510
- Forty-seven of the top 100 CEOs had a defined benefit pension plan, with an average pension payable at age 65 of just under \$1.1 million

For link to the article:

[https://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/National%20Office/2017/01/Throwing\\_Money\\_at\\_the\\_Problem\\_CEO\\_Pay.pdf](https://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/National%20Office/2017/01/Throwing_Money_at_the_Problem_CEO_Pay.pdf)

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**Portrait of Homelessness in First Nations Communities in Quebec** by Marie-France Harvey, First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Health and Social Services Commission, 2016.

Being homeless, whether briefly or for an extended period of time, can be profoundly distressing for whoever undergoes the experience. Though Aboriginal people represent only 4% of the Canadian population, they make up a much higher proportion of homeless people in Canada.

- Homelessness on First Nations territories affects men and women differently. Men appear to experience homelessness in greater isolation than women, and are proportionately more numerous to experience situations of visible homelessness and insecure housing (or couchsurfing)
- They make up 16% of the homeless population in Toronto, 30% in Ottawa, 46% in Saskatoon, over 60% in Winnipeg and over 70% in Regina
- In Montreal Aboriginal people represented 10% of the homeless population (40% of which were Inuit), though making up only 0.6% of the Montreal population

For link to the report:

<http://homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/Portrait%20of%20Homelessness%20in%20First%20Nation%20Communities%20in%20Quebec.pdf>

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**Comparing Government and Private Sector Compensation in Canada** by Charles Lammam, Milagros Palacios, Feixue Ren, and Jason Clemens, Fraser Institute, December 2016.

Using data on individual workers from January to December 2015, this report estimates the wage differential between the government and private sectors in Canada. It also evaluates four available non-wage benefits in an attempt to quantify compensation differences between the two sectors.

- Canada's government sector workers (from the federal, provincial, and local governments) were found to enjoy a 10.6 percent wage premium, on average, over their private sector counterparts in 2015
- 89.3 percent of government workers in Canada are covered by a registered pension plan, compared to 23.8 percent of private sector workers
- Government workers retire earlier than their private sector counterparts—about 2.3 years earlier on average—and are much less likely to lose their jobs (3.8 percent in the private sector versus 0.5 percent in the public sector)

For link to the report:

<https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/comparing-government-and-private-sector-compensation-in-Canada-2016.pdf>

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**Missing Opportunities: How Budget Policies Continue to Leave Behind Low-Income Students** by Sharma Queiser, Social Planning Toronto, January 2017.

Family income is one of the most powerful factors affecting student success. Students from economically and socially marginalized conditions face greater external challenges and consequently require the system to adapt to meet their needs. Toronto remains the child poverty capital of Canada and yet the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) only spends about half of the Learning Opportunities Grant-Demographic Allocation on programs and supports for students living in poverty.

- According to provincial standardized tests in grades 3 and 6, students within the highest family income category (\$100,000+) have the highest achievement in all subjects
- 93% of grade 6 students in the highest income bracket met the provincial standard for reading, while only 67% of students in the lowest income bracket achieved this level
- A recent study found that 33% of students in the lowest income neighbourhoods took the majority of their courses at the applied level, compared to only 6% of students in the highest income neighbourhoods

For link to the report:

[https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/socialplanningtoronto/pages/542/attachments/original/1484226232/LOG\\_report-final-web.pdf?1484226232](https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/socialplanningtoronto/pages/542/attachments/original/1484226232/LOG_report-final-web.pdf?1484226232)

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**America's Shrinking Middle Class: A Close Look at Changes within Metropolitan Areas** by Pew Research Centre, May 2016.

The American middle class is losing ground in metropolitan areas across the country, affecting communities from Boston to Seattle and from Dallas to Milwaukee. From 2000 to 2014 the share of adults living in middle-income households fell in 203 of the 229 U.S. metropolitan areas. The decrease in the middle-class share was often substantial, measuring 6 percentage points or more in 53 metropolitan areas, compared with a 4-point drop nationally.

- Among American adults overall, including those from outside the 229 areas examined in depth, the share living in middle-income households fell from 55% in 2000 to 51% in 2014
- The nationwide share of adults in lower-income households increased from 28% to 29% and the share in upper-income households rose from 17% to 20% during the period
- The median income of U.S. households in 2014 stood at 8% less than in 1999, a reminder that the economy has yet to fully recover from the effects of the Great Recession of 2007-09

For link to the report:

<http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/files/2016/05/Middle-Class-Metro-Areas-FINAL.pdf>

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Previous issues of the SPAR Monitor can be viewed online at: <http://bit.ly/1ez7uDB>

Social Policy, Analysis and Research Information Resources:

Wellbeing Toronto: [www.toronto.ca/wellbeing](http://www.toronto.ca/wellbeing)

Demographics & other resources: [www.toronto.ca/demographics](http://www.toronto.ca/demographics)