

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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**Housing First and its Impediments:** The Role of Public Policy in Both Creating and Ending Homelessness by Colin Phillips, Calgary Homeless Foundation, November 2017.

Recent Years have seen federal, provincial, and municipal governments across Canada put a renewed focus on homelessness and housing affordability. Indeed, both the Alberta and Ontario governments have long term plans to end homelessness, and Canada's federal government will soon release a national housing strategy. Central to all of these efforts is the Housing First (HF) philosophy of addressing homelessness.

- At the core of Streets to Homes' inability to fulfill its mandate is the lack of affordable housing and policies that foster housing security
- The poverty experienced by Streets to Homes clients could be alleviated if social assistance benefit levels in Ontario were increased
- The Intensive Case Management model that is currently being utilised by Streets to Homes is unable to respond to clients' most complex needs

For link to the study:

[http://calgaryhomeless.com/content/uploads/Housing-First-and-its-Impediments\\_2017\\_11\\_13.pdf](http://calgaryhomeless.com/content/uploads/Housing-First-and-its-Impediments_2017_11_13.pdf)

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**Unequal City: The Hidden Divide among Toronto's Children and Youth,** 2017 Toronto Child and Family Poverty Report Card by Michael Polaanyi, Beth Wilson, Jessica Mustachi, Manolli Ekra, Michael Kerr, November 2017.

This report draws on the Statistics Canada 2016 Census and other new data sources to describe the level, distribution and depth of poverty among Toronto children, youth and their families. The divide in incomes along Indigenous, racial, immigration status, and gender lines is staggering. Rates of poverty for marginalized communities are several times what they are for others.

Some of the findings:

- Indigenous families with children in the City of Toronto experience an extremely high poverty rate of 84%
- More than one in four children under 18 years of age (26.3%) live in poverty in the city of Toronto. This is the highest rate among large urban areas in Canada
- Children in racialized families are more than twice as likely to be living in poverty compared to children in non-racialized families (25.3% compared to 11.4%) in the Toronto region (i.e., Census Metropolitan Area or CMA)

- Almost one in two children who are of West Asian (46.8%) or Arab (46.7%) background live in poverty in the Toronto region which is more than four times the rate of poverty of children in non-racialized families

For link to the report:

<http://www.torontocas.ca/sites/torontocas/files/CAST%20Child%20Poverty%20Report%20Nov%202017.pdf>

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### **High-Income Trends among Canadian Tax Filers, 2015** by Statistics Canada, November 2017.

The top 1% of individual tax filers saw their share of total income rise by almost one percentage point from 2014 to 2015, the result of a sharp increase in the dividend income from Canadian corporations. This was the first increase in the share of total income going to the top 1% since 2006.

- The top 1% of Canadian tax filers held 11.2% of the nation's total income in 2015, up from 10.3% in 2014, but 0.9 percentage points below the peak of 12.1% in 2006
- The top 1% of tax filers paid, on average, \$183,000 in income taxes to the federal, provincial and territorial governments in 2015, up 13.5% over 2014
- Women accounted for a record 23.2% of the top 1% of tax filers in 2015, up from 21.7% in 2014
- The real average income of all tax filers rose 2.6% from 2014 (\$45,900) to 2015 (\$47,100), the largest year-over-year increase since 2005-2006

For link to the study:

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/171115/dq171115a-eng.pdf>

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### **The Impact of Interprovincial Migration of Seniors on Provincial Health Care Spending** by Jason Clemens, Ashley Stedman, and Joel Emes, Fraser Institute, November 2017.

Canada's single-payer health care system is unique amongst industrialized countries that, like Canada, maintain universal access. Canada's single-payer model relies on a prominent—even dominant—role for government in financing, regulating, and delivering covered health care services. The dominant role played by government financing in Canada's single-payer health care system has led to an oversight related to demographics: senior migration.

- Health care spending is skewed towards the first year of life and after retirement and for those between the ages of 65 to 69, that amount is \$6,424, but it rises to \$13,797 for those over 70
- Taxes, on the other hand, start out quite low and then climb steadily to one's prime earning years (56-63), before beginning to decline as one nears and then enters retirement
- When a senior migrates from one province to another, they are likely to have paid the bulk of their lifetime taxes in one province but will consume the majority of their health care in another
- Based on average annual health care costs by age, British Columbia had the largest cost at \$7.2 billion (in 2017 dollars) while Quebec had the largest savings at \$6.0 billion

For link to the report:

<https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/impact-of-interprovincial-migration-of-seniors-on-provincial-health-care-spending.pdf>

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**Income and Mobility of Immigrants, 2015**, Statistics Canada. November 2017.

The median entry wages of immigrant tax filers who landed in 2014 were \$24,000 in 2015, the highest on record for immigrants who have landed since 1981. Immigrants face different challenges when they land in Canada, such as recognition of foreign credentials or the ability to speak at least one of the official languages. Although increasing over the last few years, the median wages of recent immigrants remain lower than those of the Canadian population.

- The median wages of the 2005 cohort of government-assisted refugees were \$7,800 one year after landing, \$16,000 five years after landing, and \$21,000 in 2015, a decade after landing
- By contrast, the median wages of privately-sponsored refugees were \$19,900 one year after landing, \$23,000 five years after landing, and \$27,000 in 2015
- the median wages in 2015 were \$50,000 for male immigrant tax filers born in Europe and \$51,000 for those born in the United States, compared to \$30,000 for those born in East Asia

For link to the release:

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/171127/dq171127a-eng.pdf>

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Previous issues of the SPAR Monitor can be viewed online at: <http://bit.ly/2iltgRQ>

Social Policy, Analysis and Research Information Resources:

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

City of Toronto Data, Research & Maps: [www.toronto.ca/city-government/data-research-maps](http://www.toronto.ca/city-government/data-research-maps)