

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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**Student Pathways Through Postsecondary Education in Canada, 2010 to 2015** by Statistics Canada, October 2019.

Every year from 2010 to 2015, more than 320,000 students enrolled in a postsecondary program in Canada. While most of these students successfully completed their studies and earned a certificate, diploma or degree, others dropped out or switched programs along the way. This release includes seven data tables that show the pathways of postsecondary students over a five-year period. Students enrolled in five educational programs were studied: those working toward college certificates and diplomas, undergraduate degrees, master's degrees or doctoral degrees.

- Over four-fifths of young undergraduate degree students were still in their program two years after enrolling
- Quebec and Ontario have the highest graduation rates among undergraduate degree students
- In 2014, four years after first enrolling in a college-level diploma program, just over half of the women (51%) in the 2010 entry cohort had obtained a diploma, compared with 46% of the men

For link to the briefing:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/191018/dq191018a-eng.htm>

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**World Happiness Report 2019** by John F. Helliwell, Richard Layard, and Jeffrey D. Sachs, CIFAR, 2019.

This is the 7th World Happiness Report. The first was released in April 2012 in support of a UN High level meeting on "Wellbeing and Happiness: Defining a New Economic Paradigm". Each report includes updated evaluations and a range of commissioned chapters on special topics digging deeper into the science of well-being, and on happiness in specific countries and regions.

- At a global level, population-weighted life evaluations fell sharply during the financial crisis, recovered completely by 2011, and fell fairly steadily since to a 2018 value about the same level as its post-crisis low
- Canada remains in 7<sup>th</sup> place in the happiness rankings, with the USA in 18<sup>th</sup> place
- The five largest drops since 2005-2008 were in Yemen, India, Syria, Botswana and Venezuela, with drops over one point in each case, the largest fall being almost two points in Venezuela

For link to the paper:

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/happiness-report/2019/WHR19.pdf>

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**Creating Equitable Child Care Policy for Ontario** by Cardus Institute, October 2019.

The new provincial CARE tax rebate is a step in the right direction, recognizing the various types of non-parental care many parents use. Still, there is pressure to fund one form of care, with \$1 billion budgeted for the creation of thirty thousand new spaces in schools over five years.

- In Ontario, about 54 percent of children under six years old are in non-parental care
- Parents choose care based on their needs. According to the survey, the top reasons parents who use care select the type of care they do are location (61.7%), the characteristics of the individual providing care (51.6%), and the hours of operation (40.3%)
- Ontario can create more choices for parents by eliminating unnecessary discrimination against market based, home-based, or other independent child care providers

For link to the paper:

<https://content.cardus.ca/documents/download/5848>

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**Double or Nothing: Why Northern Scarborough Has No Neighbourhood Improvement Areas and What We Can Do About It** by John Stapleton, Open Policy, September 2019.

In this paper I explore the biggest flaw in the Urban HEART tool: its data collection methods to determine low income, which favour neighbourhoods where there are high concentrations of public housing. A second major flaw is in data collection to determine population health, which focuses on neighbourhoods where data is available – once again those with high concentrations of public housing..

- Total incomes of low-income people in subsidized housing are much lower than low-income earners in market rental. However, their after-shelter income is much higher.
- For a single ODSP recipient, the rent in subsidized housing is \$109 a month instead of the full shelter component of \$497 a month. Accordingly, a single ODSP recipient in subsidized housing receives an income of \$781 a month or \$9,372 a year
- Discounted rents in subsidized housing in Toronto result in a \$120 million difference between the actual payments made in subsidized buildings and what would otherwise be paid in the private market

For link to the paper:

[https://openpolicyontario.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/2019/10/Double-or-Nothing\\_web-FINAL-R2.pdf](https://openpolicyontario.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/2019/10/Double-or-Nothing_web-FINAL-R2.pdf)

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**The Impact of Immigrant Business Ownership on International Trade** by Loretta Fung, Douwre Grekou and Huju Liu, Statistics Canada, May 2019.

This paper uses a data file that links the Canadian Employer–Employee Dynamics Database (CEEDD) with import and export data. It links detailed firm-level data to firm owner characteristics and highly disaggregated international trade data.

- Immigrants can play a key role in linking the source and host countries, as they have knowledge about both countries (language, culture, preferences and business environment), and access to social and business networks
- This paper empirically investigates the effect of immigrant business ownership on international trade using detailed firm-level data linked to owner characteristics and highly disaggregated international trade data
- Linking the CEEDD to import and export data thus provides, for the first time, detailed information on trade (at the country and product level) and firm-level ownership

For link to the paper:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11f0019m/11f0019m2019014-eng.pdf>

**Marginal Effective Tax Rates Across Provinces: High Rates on Low Income** by Philip Bazel, Fraser Institute, October 2019.

This study provides a primer on interpreting marginal effective tax rates (METRs); it also gives measurements for the current set of METRs for working-age, two-earner families across provinces. It offers some background on the concerns associated with high marginal effective tax rates and concludes by looking at some proposals to reduce the negative impacts associated with high METRs.

- Low- and modest-income families in Canada face high effective tax rates at the margin, often near or exceeding 50% in the earned income range of \$30,000 to \$60,000
- Marginal effective tax rates at the personal level, whether individual, family, or household, essentially account for the combined effect of the tax-and-transfer system and thus represent the real net-of-tax returns to earned income.
- By substantially lowering the net-of-tax returns to earnings over this critical income range, the overall impact of the tax-and-transfer system re-duces the incentive to seek opportunities to earn incremental income, and in turn to improve the financial standing of low-income families

For link to the paper:

<https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/marginal-effective-tax-rates-across-provinces.pdf>

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: <https://web.toronto.ca/city-government/data-research-maps/>