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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Family Income Mobility of Canadian Taxfilers, 1982 to 2016 by Statistics Canada, May 2019.

Since the early 1980s, with the exception of the early 1990s recession, more Canadian taxfilers saw their real family after-tax income rise than fall. Over time, they also became more likely to stay on the same rung of the income ladder and were less likely to move up or down relative to other taxfilers.

➢ Since the mid-1990s, on average, about 40% of filers had falling family incomes, compared with 60% with rising incomes
➢ Senior taxfilers (65 years and older) were more likely to stay in the same income decile compared with other age groups
➢ Canadian-born taxfilers were more likely to stay in the same decile than immigrant taxfilers who immigrated after 1979

For link to the update:

https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/190710/dq190710b-eng.htm
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Marital Status of Those in Poverty by Daniel J Dutton, The Calgary School of Public Policy, June 2019.

The government of Canada has adoptedthe Market Basket Measure (MBM) as the preferred poverty line in its national poverty reduction strategy. In that same strategy, a practical definition of deep poverty is proposed: Individuals in deep poverty are those with incomes below 75% of the poverty line. 75% was chosen because individuals and families below that income are likely spending the entirety of their income on just clothing, food, transportation, and shelter.

➢ People experiencing deep poverty are far more likely to be single compared to the rest of the population.
➢ Except for the small GST/HST tax credit, the federal government provides no income support for people without children.
➢ Singles are the one group left over after successful targeting of other groups, like seniors or children, with poverty reduction tax credits, benefits, and subsidies

For link to the briefing note:

https://www.policyschool.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Social-Policy-Trends-AB-Deep-Pov-Dutton.pdf

TORONTO

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Black-led Businesses In Toronto:Building Opportunities for Growth and Prosperity, by the Black Business and Professionals Council Advisory Body of the City of Toronto and co-sponsored by the City of Toronto, 2015.

In May 2014 the Deputy Mayor of Toronto convened roundtables on Black Business Professionals and Youth Entrepreneurs. An outcome of the Black Business Professionals Roundtable was the creation of the Black Business and Professionals Council Advisory Body (BBPCAB), mandated to review and make recommendations on how the City can improve its outreach to the Black small business community. This survey and analysis is a significant first step in establishing a stronger and closer working relationship between the Black business community and the City of Toronto..

  ➢ Black-led businesses in Toronto are predominantly focused on professional services (32% of respondents), which includes business consulting, advertising and legal services
  ➢ Over half of surveyed Black-owned businesses in Toronto (59% of respondents) have operated for five years or less
  ➢ Almost half (48% of respondents) are self-employed. Only three businesses employ more than 100 employees (2%). Therefore, almost all businesses surveyed are small businesses

For link to the paper:

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5c9ff44ce66669098db10e3f/t/5ca10b37e79c708fd52fe3e3/1554058045051/8ff2-EDC-Black-led-Businesses-Toronto.pdf

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Persistence and Representation of Women in STEM Programs by Katherine Wall, Statistics Canada, May 2019.

The underrepresentation of women in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics and computer science) has attracted considerable attention, and many have wondered whether women are more likely than men to quit STEM programs at university. Using data from the Education and Labour Market Longitudinal Platform (ELMLP), this study follows a cohort of students who enrolled in a STEM program in 2010 over a number of years, in order to see the extent to which women and men persist in and eventually graduate from STEM programs.

  ➢ Women made up 44% of first-year STEM students aged 19 or less in undergraduate degree programs in 2010, whereas they accounted for more than 64% of students in BHASE, or non-STEM, programs
  ➢ 66% of womenand 72% of men remained in a STEM program (as students or graduates) as of 2015
  ➢ Persistence varied across STEM programs. About 82% of women and 77% of men in engineering remained in the same program over the period. This compared with 9% of women and men in general and integrated sciences

For link to the paper:

https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/75-006-x/2019001/article/00006-eng.pdf?st=tb2xQgkw

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Technology, Automation and Employment: Will this Time be Different? by Steven Globerman, Art Carden, Livio DiMatteo et al., Fraser Institute, July 2019.

Western societies have exhibited a continuing worry that automation, particularly automation associated with artificial intelligence, will lead to massive unemployment and the impoverishment of large segments of society. In fact, the history of automation affirms that concerns about technological change causing widespread unemployment are misguided.

> ➢ Productivity gains from the use of AI will improve real income levels and, as in the past, the resulting expansion of the economy will increase the demand for workers, even as AI substitutes for some labour market skills
> ➢ Technological change, on balance, increases the overall demand for labour, while contributing to higher living standards for most segments of society
> ➢ If the AI experience is going to be different from historical experience, it might be because of significant reductions in the supply of labour associated with aging populations and historically low birth rates

For link to the paper:
https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/technology-automation-and-employment.pdf
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Towards an Inclusive Economy: Syncing EI to the Reality of Low-wage Work, by Ricardo Tranjan, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, June 2019.

This report presents an analysis of three commonly used EI coverage measures broken down by income level, which shows that low-wage workers have considerably less access to EI benefits than workers with higher wages.

> ➢ Only 28% of all unemployed workers who earned $15 or less per hour qualified for benefits in 2017
> ➢ [A] comparison of the amount of EI premiums paid by workers who earned less than $30,000 (in 2015) with the amount paid by workers who earned more, which shows that lower-income workers contributed 1.8% of their employment income to EI while higher-income workers contributed 1.1% of their earnings.
> ➢ More than half (52%) of low-wage workers are employed in two industries, namely, retail (30%) and accommodation and food services (22%)

For link to the paper:
https://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/Ontario%20Office/2019/06/Towards%20an%20Inclusive%20Economy.pdf