



# ***Income Inequality: Where Economics and Social Justice Collide***

***Co-sponsored by IPAC and the Institute for Social Research,  
York University***

**Monday June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014, 10:00 AM - Noon.**

**Room C Osgoode Hall Law School Professional Development Centre  
1 Dundas Street West, 26th Floor**

**Featuring:** **Sheila Block**, Director, Economic Analysis, Wellesley Institute  
**Dr. Lesley Jacobs**, Professor of Law and Society/Political Science,  
Director, Institute for Social Research, York University  
**Brian Murphy**, Chief, Statistics Canada Income Research  
**Moderated by:** Doug Cudmore, Business Editor, The Toronto Star

The gap between the very wealthy and everyone else is currently on the rise throughout North America and Europe. The current trend, where an increasing share of wealth goes to the top 10% income bracket, is taking place in a context of slow economic growth and stalled job creation.

Canada is 23<sup>rd</sup> out of 39 in the OECD income inequality ranking. We do better than our large neighbour to the south, which clocks in at 31, leading President Obama to state that that inequality is "the defining issue of our time." However, we do much worse than, for example, the Nordic countries, which boast the least income inequality.

Income inequality affects us all. It is clear that outcomes related to wellbeing (e.g. health status, education attainment, social mobility) are better in countries with a flatter income gradient. However, debate continues regarding the causes of inequality, whether intervention is necessary and, if so, what policy solutions might work.

## **The session will address such questions as:**

- Is income inequality the historical norm or is it something that comes and goes, driven by events and changing economic trends such as globalization? Is it an inherent outcome of free market capitalism? What is inevitable and what can be changed?
- Is the problem income inequality, poverty – or both? What measures/indicators do we use and are they measuring what we think they are?
- Can public policy narrow the inequality gap? What are the best levers?
- Can one country act effectively or must there be coordinated action?
- Do Canadians care about income inequality or is it, as some have argued, an academic preoccupation?

This event is the first of a three-part series titled: *Checking in on Capitalism*. Session two: *Capitalism and Good Jobs* and session three: *Public Service in an Era of Constrained Growth* are upcoming in the fall of 2014.

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### **On-line registration only**

#### **No Registration at the Door**

Payment by Visa/Amex/MasterCard

**\$45** IPAC members **\$60** non-members

**\$25** students/interns

[Click here to register](#)

#### **For further information, contact:**

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