Institute for Social and Economic Policy

Shaping Policy for a Prosperous Future
2016
Executive Summary

Economic development and social development are twin engines driving national prosperity. The past several decades have been marked by many important social and economic trends, including a slowdown in economic growth, rising inequality, and increasing ethnic diversity. As a result, Canada and the United States are at cross-roads in terms of social and economic prospects.

Social and economic development are inextricably linked to Canadians’ well-being and quality of life. To ensure ongoing development, all invested parties—from academia to various branches of government to community institutions—must work together to coordinate policies, programs and services to ensure greater prosperity for all people.

The Institute for Social and Economic Policy

At Western, we believe new research is needed to develop policies and practices that will support sustainability, well-being and economic growth in the 21st century.

Western is committed to raising funds, both endowed and expendable, to support the Institute for Social and Economic Policy that will be housed in the Faculty of Social Science. The Institute will generate evidence-based policy research through a multidisciplinary approach with a goal to influence social and economic policy in Canada and North America more broadly. The Institute will:

• Encourage collaboration amongst researchers;
• Use research results to inform and train the next generation of leaders in the academic world as well as local, national and international governments and non-profit agencies;
• Inform policy development in Canada and across North America;
• Share results with local communities and beyond.

“The Institute will bring together our best researchers to conduct research that will shape policies for a prosperous future.”

- Bob Andersen
Dean, Faculty of Social Science

In Recognition

Western will be pleased to work with donors to develop appropriate recognition opportunities in honour of their philanthropic commitment and report regularly on the initiative’s impact.
Western’s new **Institute for Social and Economic Policy** will produce world-class, relevant research regarding social and economic policy.

The Institute will facilitate evidence-based policy research through a multidisciplinary approach. Research and training will address the interaction between social and economic policy and practice, and the use of social policy to promote economic security and growth.

**The goals of the Institute are to use advanced data creation, management, and analytic techniques to provide theoretically driven and evidenced-based research that will inform social and economic policy.**

The main focus of the Institute will be North America, especially comparative analyses of Canada and the United States, but where appropriate, international comparisons that have relevance to the North American perspective will also receive attention.

Research will focus on issues related, but not limited, to:

- Educational attainment
- Poverty and inequality
- Immigration and Diversity
- Population change
- Local government
- Urban affairs and community development
- Economic development

**Enhancing Research Collaboration**

The Institute will be housed in the Faculty of Social Science, the largest and most diverse faculty at Western, with more than 180 tenured or tenure-track professors, and 627 graduate students, including 320 PhD candidates, in nine departments.

Positioned at the centre of advanced policy research in the Faculty, the Institute will be a knowledge leader—bringing together our best researchers by creating a space to facilitate collaboration and foster synergies between research teams.

The Institute will also serve as a resource for information on research and funding opportunities, training and additional activities relevant to its members.
Institute for Social and Economic Policy

Research with Impact

A number of the Centres currently in existence within the Faculty will function under the umbrella of the Institute and will pool resources, where feasible, to support the work of the Institute:

- Centre for Research on Migration and Ethnic Relations
- Canada-U.S. Institute
- Centre for Population, Aging and Health
- Centre for Human Capital and Productivity
- Statistics Canada Research Data Centre

We plan to create the following two new centres that will also fall under the Institute’s umbrella:

- Centre for Local Government and Urban Affairs
- National Centre for Research on Poverty and Inequality

In addition to enhancing collaboration, the Institute will use research results to inform and train the next generation of global leaders in academia, government, business, industry and non-profit agencies.

Our Commitment

Western is committed to raising funds, both endowed and expendable, to create the Institute and make a significant impact on policy development. Funds will support the following elements:

- **Endowed Chair**—the chair will serve to educate and mentor graduate students; guide innovative research programs; collaborate with researchers in the faculty and across campus; and direct community outreach.

- **Post-Doctoral Fellowships**—these positions will encourage young scholars and researchers to pursue their interests, establish a publication record and produce significant research results.

- **Publications and media presence**—research papers, policy briefs, semi-annual newsletters, media releases and a media presence through websites and social media will publicize the work of the Institute’s members.

- **Colloquia series and annual conference**—the Institute will attract internal and external researchers, policy makers and community leaders whose expertise is related to the Institute’s activities.

- **Visitor/Exchange program**—The Institute will bring in top academics, policy makers and media personalities from across North America.
Western is committed to working in close cooperation with our alumni and friends to recognize their support and enable them to witness the impact of their giving. Benefits and recognition opportunities may include:

**Naming Opportunities**
As the Institute develops, there will be many opportunities to recognize donors for their philanthropic commitment. For example, an opportunity to name the Institute or an academic chair will be possible, guided by and dependent upon the level of donor support.

**Enhancing the Western Vision**
The Institute will enhance Western’s profile among preeminent national and international universities by conducting significant work in the area of social and economic policy and practice.

**Advancing Frontiers of Knowledge**
Advance the frontiers of knowledge in the field of social and economic policy through independent research projects, supervising graduate students, and coordinating the work of researchers.

**Developing Global Leaders**
By combining academic knowledge with an understanding of the practical application of research findings, the Institute will contribute to the University’s goal of developing global leaders who are passionate about making a difference on the world stage.

Furthermore, the Institute will enhance our ability to attract and retain distinguished faculty, renowned researchers and motivated students to Western.

**Regular Reporting**
Donors will receive a semi-annual newsletter that will publicize the research of the Institute’s members and its impact on the research landscape.

Thank you for reviewing this information.
Proposed Floor Plan

Institute for Social and Economic Policy
Faculty of Social Science, Western University

 Courtesy: Randy Wilson Architect Incorporated