Invitation to Attend the CSLS
Seminar Series on Living Standards

The Challenge of Artificial Intelligence: The Way Forward

Mark Schaan

3:30-5:00 PM
Monday, January 20, 2025,
Karsh Room, Rideau Club
99 Bank Street, 15th floor
Ottawa, Ontario

(please note that the Rideau Club dress code requires men to wear a jacket)

To attend, please RSVP by January 16, 2025, to andrew.sharpe@csls.ca.

As AI adoption accelerates, significant risks and transformative opportunities emerge. Canada, a pioneer in initially shaping the field, now faces challenges of coordination, scale, and trust—critical factors that will define our leadership in this increasingly competitive space. Globally, jurisdictions like the United States, and the EU, not to mention China, India, South Korea, and Brazil are rapidly advancing their AI strategies, making it vital for Canada to act decisively.

The 2024 Fall Economic Statement announced the launch of a strategic review of government operations and programs focusing on expanding the use of AI in the public sector. Our speaker, PCO senior official Mark Schaan, is the leader of this review. In his presentation, he will discuss how fostering trust, improving collaboration across sectors and the governments, and driving responsible AI adoption can unlock efficiencies, enhance services, and deliver impact, seizing Canada's leadership in a field that it has played an outsized role in shaping.

Mark Schaan is Deputy Secretary to the Cabinet – Artificial Intelligence in the Privy Council Office. In this role, he supports the overall AI agenda, seeking to position Canada for leadership in its responsible development and use. Prior to this, Mark served as Senior Assistant Deputy Minister for Strategy and Innovation Policy at the Department of Innovation, Science and Economic Development (ISED). He earned a BA (Honours) from the University of Waterloo in Political Science, and a MPhil in Comparative Social Policy and DPhil in Social Policy from the University of Oxford, where he studied as a Rhodes Scholar.