

## ***The Honourable Diane Ablonczy, Minister of State (Seniors), to Address International Conference on Ageing Participants***

Ottawa -- The International Council for Canadian Studies (ICCS) is pleased to announce that The Honourable **Diane Ablonczy**, Minister of State (Seniors), Calgary–Nose Hill (Alberta), will address ICCS conference participants during a reception to be held Saturday May 29, 2010 at 6:00 pm at Concordia University John Molson School of Business Building, Room MB 4-101.

The ICCS biennial, international conference “Ageing Societies -- The Dynamics of Demographic Change in Canada” will be held on May 29 and 30, 2010, during the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences to be held at Concordia University. It will gather key researchers from Canada and abroad with a view of comparing various approaches and social and policy implications with regard to this current and important phenomenon.

The two key speakers of the conference are : **Munir Sheikh**, Chief Statistician of Canada, Statistics Canada (May 29, 9:15 am at the John Molson School of Business Building, room MB 2-210) and **Céline Le Bourdais**, Canada Research Chair in Social Statistics and Family Change, McGill University (May 30, 9:00 am at the John Molson School of Business Building, room MB 2-210). Simultaneous translation will be available for both presentations.

Participants of note include: Jane Barratt, Secretary General of the International Federation on Ageing ; Howard Bergman, Vice-President and Scientific Director of the Fonds de la Recherche en Santé du Québec; Jacques Légaré, Emeritus Professor, Université de Montréal; David Mac Donald, Senior Associate Deputy Minister of Strategic Policy and Research, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada; Daphne Nahmiash, National Seniors Council of Canada; and Byron Spencer, Research Director, Social Economic Dimensions of an Aging Population.

The International Council for Canadian Studies (ICCS) is an incorporated non-profit organization governed by a [Board of Directors](#) and an elected four-member [Executive Committee](#) with a [permanent Secretariat](#) based in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. It is a federation of 21 national and multi-national [Canadian Studies associations](#) and 6 [associate members](#) in 39 countries. The ICCS network links over 7,000 academics and researchers. These "Canadianists" publish hundreds of scholarly articles and books on Canadian topics; organize colloquia, seminars and conferences on Canada; and through their teaching and seminars reach over 150,000 students.

- 30 -

The conference program is available at <http://www.iccs-ciec.ca/pdf/biennial/2010%20Final%20Conference%20Program.pdf>, and information on the participants and their presentations are available at <http://www.iccs-ciec.ca/pdf/biennial/Abstract%20and%20bios.pdf>. You will find below a short bio of The Honourable Diane Ablonczy, as well as a bios and abstracts for Munir Sheikh and Céline Le Bourdais.

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**The Honourable Diane Ablonczy**

**Minister of State (Seniors)**

Calgary–Nose Hill (Alberta)

Diane Ablonczy was first elected to the House of Commons in 1993 and re-elected in 1997, 2000, 2004, 2006 and 2008. Ms. Ablonczy was appointed Secretary of State (Small Business and Tourism) in August 2007 and then Minister of State (Small Business and Tourism) in October 2008.

She previously served as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance. Ms. Ablonczy has been a member of several committees of the House of Commons, including the standing committees on Citizenship and Immigration, on Human Resources Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities, and on Health. She has also served on the House of Commons Finance Committee.

Prior to entering political life, Ms. Ablonczy enjoyed a varied career which included experiences ranging from teaching junior high school to managing a grain farm operation to building a successful law practice.

Ms. Ablonczy was named Honorary President of the Hoy Sun Association of Calgary, which represents members of the local Chinese and Vietnamese communities.

Ms. Ablonczy graduated from the University of Calgary and has degrees in education and law.

She is married to Ron and has one daughter, four step-children and five grandchildren.

# Keynote Speakers / Conférenciers principaux

*L'interprétation simultanée sera disponible durant les conférences principales.  
Simultaneous translation will be available during the keynote addresses.*

## Céline Le Bourdais



***Entre famille et vieillissement : impact des transformations familiales aux âges avancés /  
Families and Ageing : the Impact of Family Transformations on the Aged***

### Résumé

C'est maintenant un truisme de dire que les familles ont beaucoup changé au cours des 40 dernières années. La baisse de fécondité enclenchée au milieu des années 1960 a été suivie d'une transformation profonde de la vie conjugale, marquée par une augmentation du divorce et des séparations et la progression de l'union libre au détriment du mariage. Le nombre de familles monoparentales et recomposées a crû de manière importante au fil du temps, et une part croissante d'hommes, de femmes et d'enfants doivent aujourd'hui composer avec des trajectoires familiales complexes et diversifiées. On présentera ici à grands traits certains changements qui mettent en cause la solidarité entre conjoints et entre parents et enfants, et on s'interrogera sur l'impact qu'ils risquent d'exercer sur la vie des individus aux âges avancés.

### Abstract

It is now commonplace to say that families have changed considerably over the past 40 years. The decline of fertility that started in the mid-1960s was followed by a profound transformation of conjugal life, which was marked by an increase in divorce/separation rates, as well as an increase in common-law unions over marriages. The number of single-parent and step-families rose significantly over the years, so that today a growing number of men, women and children must deal with complex and diversified family trajectories. The presentation will outline some of these changes that challenge the solidarity between spouses/partners and between parents and children, and will examine the impact that these changes may have on the aged.

### Bio

Céline Le Bourdais est professeure titulaire au Département de sociologie à l'Université McGill, où elle occupe la Chaire de recherche du Canada en *Statistiques sociales et changement familial*, et directrice académique du Centre interuniversitaire québécois de statistiques sociales (CIQSS). Dr. Le Bourdais a une longue expérience de l'analyse longitudinale des données d'enquêtes appliquée à l'étude des transformations familiales au Canada et au Québec. Ses travaux, publiés dans différents ouvrages et revues scientifiques, ont examiné l'impact des changements sociodémographiques récents sur la dynamique des familles et les trajectoires familiales des hommes, des femmes et des enfants et leurs répercussions au regard de la politique familiale. Plus récemment, ses recherches s'intéressent aux différences et similitudes entre mariage et union libre; à l'effet des politiques familiales sur la fécondité; et aux problèmes conceptuels et méthodologiques de l'approche statistique dans sa capacité d'appréhender le réseau familial auquel les individus participent.

Céline Le Bourdais is Professor in the Department of Sociology at McGill University, where she holds the position of Canada Research Chair in Social Statistics and Family Change. Dr. Le Bourdais is also academic Director of the Quebec Inter-University Centre for Social Statistics (QICSS). She has a long experience of quantitative longitudinal analysis in the study of family transformations in Canada and Québec. Her work, which has been published in various scientific journals, has examined the impact of recent socio-demographic changes on family dynamics, as well as on women, men, and children, and the implications of these changes for family policy. More recently, her research has focused on the differences and similarities between marriage and common-law relationships; the effect of family policy on fertility; and on the conceptual and methodological problems of using statistics to understand the family network.

## Keynote Speakers / Conférenciers principaux

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### Munir Sheikh



**Ageing Societies: The Dynamics of Demographic Change in Canada**  
**Le vieillissement des sociétés : la dynamique de l'évolution démographique au Canada**

#### Abstract

Statistics Canada has, for quite some time now, shed light on the ageing population through the conduct of surveys, analysis of administrative data sources, as well as population projection models. While the characteristics of an ageing Canadian population are well known, there remain important data gaps for effective decision making in important policy areas such as health, pensions, immigration, and productivity. The current fiscal climate requires more than ever the collaboration of the academic, research and government sectors in using the best information possible to meet the challenges presented by an aging population.

Depuis quelque temps maintenant, Statistique Canada met en lumière le vieillissement de la population par la réalisation d'enquêtes, par l'analyse des sources de données administratives, ainsi que par des modèles de projection de la population. Bien que les caractéristiques du vieillissement de la population canadienne soient bien connues, il y a encore des lacunes importantes en ce qui concerne les données en vue de la prise de décision efficace dans des domaines importants de politiques publiques tels que la santé, la retraite, l'immigration et la productivité. La situation financière actuelle exige plus que jamais la collaboration de la communauté universitaire, des chercheurs et du secteur public afin d'utiliser la meilleure information possible pour relever les défis présentés par une population vieillissante.

#### Bio

Munir Sheikh was appointed Chief Statistician of Canada on June 16, 2008 by the Prime Minister. Before this appointment, Mr. Sheikh was Deputy Minister of Labour. Mr. Sheikh has broad and varied experience in government, having held many senior level positions. Prior to Labour, Mr. Sheikh was Deputy Secretary to the Cabinet, Expenditure Review at the Privy Council Office. He has also been Associate Deputy Minister first at Health and then at Finance Canada, and Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, Tax Policy at Finance Canada, where he was responsible for managing the Canadian tax system. It was under his guidance that the Government of Canada unveiled the \$100 billion tax reduction package in the Economic Statement and Budget Update of 2000. Mr. Sheikh holds a Doctorate degree in Economics from the University of Western Ontario and a Masters degree in Economics from McMaster University. He has published extensively in academic journals in the areas of international economics, macroeconomics, and public finance. He has also taught at Carleton University and the University of Ottawa for many years.

Munir Sheikh a été nommé, le 16 juin 2008, statisticien en chef du Canada par le Premier ministre. Avant cette nomination, il a été sous-ministre du Travail. M. Sheikh possède une expérience vaste et variée du monde gouvernemental, puisqu'il y a occupé divers postes de direction, notamment comme : sous-secrétaire du Cabinet, Examen des dépenses, au Bureau du Conseil privé; sous-ministre délégué d'abord à Santé Canada et ensuite à Finances Canada et sous-ministre adjoint principal, Politique de l'impôt, Finances Canada, où il était responsable de la gestion du régime fiscal canadien. C'était d'ailleurs à cette époque et sous sa gouverne que le gouvernement du Canada a dévoilé, en 2000, des réductions d'impôt de 100 milliards de dollars dans l'énoncé économique et la mise à jour budgétaire. M. Sheikh possède un doctorat en économie de l'Université Western Ontario ainsi qu'une maîtrise en économie de l'Université McMaster. Il a publié de nombreux articles dans des revues spécialisées dans les domaines de l'économie internationale, de la macroéconomie et des finances publiques. Il a aussi enseigné plusieurs années à l'Université Carleton et à l'Université d'Ottawa.