



Newsletter

June 2025



In a world undergoing upheaval, **education and workforce development** are more **essential** than ever as key levers to improve productivity and reduce inequality. To achieve tangible results, people from all economic sectors must have the opportunity to acquire the key skills that will enable them to understand, adapt to, and benefit from current transformations. Failing to include the entire population in this process risks exacerbating social inequalities.

Under the leadership of lead researchers [Benoit Dostie](#) (HEC Montréal) and [Fabian Lange](#) (McGill University) for the major theme *Skills*, [Raquel Fonseca](#) (ESG UQAM) and [Markus Poschke](#) (McGill University) for the major theme *Inequality and Poverty*, and coordinated by [Geneviève Dufour](#) (CIRANO), the activities of the 2025–2026 thematic year will revolve around **four interconnected pillars**:

- Education and Training
- Impacts of Digital Innovation and AI
- Labour Market
- Inequality and Poverty

Planned activities related to the 2025–2026 thematic year:

- June 12, 2025 – [CREEi-GRCH-ECOSVieQ student conference](#)

- June 17, 2025 – [External Event – Governing AI for Sustainable Jobs: France–Canada Strategic Dialogue](#)
- September 17, 2025 – [Official Launch of the 2025–2026 Thematic Year](#)

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SUMMARY

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CIRANO NEWS

RESEARCH PROGRAM

2025 - 2026

Presentation of the 2025–2026 Research Programming

We are pleased to present the 2025–2026 research programming. More than 60 research projects will be carried out this year across CIRANO's 10 major research themes. In addition, CIRANO is proud to unveil the theme for the 2025–2026 year: « *Éducation et main-d'œuvre : pour une société plus productive et équitable* ».

→ [Learn more](#)



Nomination of Robert Gagné as the New Chair of CIRANO's Scientific Committee

CIRANO is pleased to announce the nomination of [Robert Gagné](#) as Chair of its Scientific Committee. A CIRANO Researcher and Fellow since 1999, Robert Gagné is a Full Professor in the Department of Applied Economics at HEC Montréal. His research focuses primarily on the effects of public policies in Quebec and Canada.

→ [Read more](#)



Recognition of the Winners of the 38th Edition of the Bourstad Contest

On June 2, CIRANO held an award ceremony to recognize the winners of the 2025 Bourstad Contest and to thank the partners who have supported the initiative for many years. This 38th edition of the contest brought together 3,085 participants from across the country. In total, more than 20,000 people used the Bourstad financial simulation tool in 2024–2025.

→ [Read more](#)



Welcome to the New CIRANO Members

CIRANO is pleased to welcome [David Ardia](#), Professor in the Department of Decision Sciences at HEC Montréal, as a new CIRANO Researcher, and [Tiffanie Perrault](#), Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics at Grand Valley State University, as an Associate CIRANO Researcher.

→ [Read more](#)



Looking Back on the 42nd Edition of the Jean-Yves-Rivard Symposium

The 42nd edition of the Jean-Yves Rivard Symposium, *Between Public and Private: Quebec's Health Care System at a Crossroads*, served as the closing event of CIRANO's 2025–2026 thematic year. This edition brought together decision-makers, managers, clinicians, and members of the academic research community, including several CIRANO researchers.

→ [Read more](#)



Attracting Family Doctors to Rural Areas: Government Measures Have Had a Tangible Impact

Have the policies implemented since 1975 to attract family doctors to rural areas paid off? A CIRANO study conducted by [Bernard Fortin](#) (Université Laval, CIRANO researcher and Fellow), [Justin Ndoutoumou](#), [Josette Gbeto](#), and [Maude Laberge](#) (Université Laval, CIRANO researcher) shows that certain measures have indeed influenced the practice location of new general practitioners. The results were presented during an online event held on May 20.

→ [Read more](#)



Looking back on the 2025 programming of the CIRANO-CIREQ-RRECQ workshops in environmental and natural resource economics

Since the beginning of the year, 7 workshops have brought together researchers and doctoral students in economics who are interested in natural resource and environmental economics. Fourteen speakers led these sessions and discussed their respective studies. At the end of April, we concluded the season with an interdisciplinary day focused on the theme of eco-anxiety.

→ [Read more](#)

-OUTREACH



Three CIRANO members contribute to the reflection on improving access to medical services.



Two major economics conferences highlighted the expertise of CIRANO members in May.



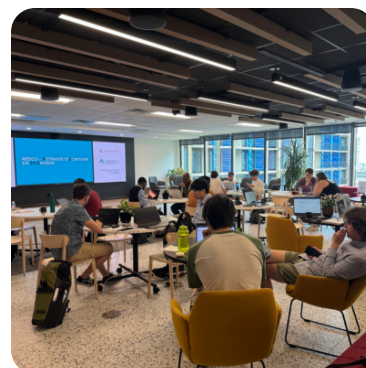
Preliminary findings from a CIRANO project on teacher training in technological education presented at the Acfas Conference.



Thierry Warin, Frédéric Marty, and Nathalie de



Three CIRANO members receive awards from the



William Arbour mobilizes the next generation with

**Marcellis-Warin publish
an article in *Revue
économique*.**

**FRQ-Santé Research
Scholars Program.**

**a writing retreat for
master's and doctoral
students**

-EVENTS CALENDAR



CREEi-GRCH-ECOSVieQ Student Conference

On June 12, the [Research Chair on Intergenerational Economic Issues \(CREEi\)](#), the [Human Capital Research Group \(GRCH\)](#), and ECOSVieQ are organizing a symposium at CIRANO to provide students with an opportunity to discuss and present their research. The program includes 11 presentations on a variety of topics, ranging from women's participation in the labor market to internal migration in Canada, as well as the employability of immigrant populations in Quebec.



External Event – Governing AI for Sustainable Jobs

Following the Action AI Summit held in Paris from February 6 to 11, **Guillaume Avrin**, France's National Coordinator for Artificial Intelligence, will be in Montreal to present an exclusive summary of the main advances in responsible AI serving the public interest. This presentation will be followed by a France–Canada roundtable organized by CORIM and moderated by [Nathalie de Marcellis-Warin](#), Professor at Polytechnique Montréal, researcher at Obvia, and President and CEO of CIRANO.



Launch Cocktail for the 2025–2026 Thematic Year

In a world undergoing profound changes, education and workforce development are more essential than ever as key levers to improve productivity and reduce inequalities. In this context, CIRANO has chosen [“Éducation et main-d’œuvre : pour une société plus productive et équitable”](#) as the theme for the 2025–2026 year. To launch this thematic year, join us on September 17 at CIRANO for a panel discussion with the lead researchers of the major themes [Skills](#) and [Inequalities and Poverty](#).

A journal for the dissemination and valorization of research at CIRANO -



La santé avant tout? Perceptions de la population québécoise quant à l'engagement de l'État envers la santé

Olivier Jacques and Philippe Chassé

The combined effect of rising health care costs and significant budget constraints limits the resources that can be allocated to the health care system. Governments therefore face difficult trade-offs when it comes to distributing public funds both within the health care system and across various state functions. The authors show that Quebecers are generally very dissatisfied with the health care system and that there is strong public consensus in favor of increased health spending. However, this desire does not necessarily translate into a willingness to pay more taxes to support additional expenditures.

ALL PERSPECTIVES

-PUBLICATIONS

PROJECT REPORTS



Les avantages socioéconomiques d'un rattrapage de la diplomation des garçons au Québec

Marie Connolly and Fabian Lange

This CIRANO report evaluates the extent to which the level of education among men and women explains differences in labor market participation, employment income, government transfers, and income tax paid. It then analyzes what employment income, taxes paid, and government transfers could be expected if boys' high school graduation rates were raised to match those of girls.



Mesurer la dépense de santé publique au Québec et dans les provinces canadiennes : une analyse comparative

Olivier Jacques, Emna Ben Jelili, Alexandre Prud'homme and Emmanuelle Arpin

In this report, the authors show that CIHI tends to overestimate public health spending in all provinces except Quebec. However, public health is defined in different ways by various public and governmental entities. Differences in how public health expenditures are classified from one province to another make interprovincial comparisons difficult and can affect the perception of provinces' financial efforts in public health. By aligning the levels of public spending across provinces, this study offers a renewed perspective on Quebec's efforts in public health.



Attraction et rétention du personnel en TI dans le secteur de la santé et des services sociaux

Daniel J. Caron, Steve Jacob and Vincent Nicolini

This report examines the factors that influence the attraction and retention of information technology personnel. It presents a literature review that identifies these factors and groups them into three dimensions—individual, organizational, and collective. Based on the findings of the literature review, the report proposes a tool to measure the importance IT professionals place on each of these factors. This tool is intended to help organizations develop workforce attraction and retention strategies that align with the attitudes, beliefs, and aspirations of IT professionals.



Modèle de maturité numérique pour les établissements de santé au Québec

Daniel J. Caron and Vincent Nicolini

This report proposes a model for measuring the digital maturity of organizations based on the development of a theory of change, in which the program to be transformed is the operation of health care institutions and facilities. What makes this model unique is its multidimensional nature—rooted in the three levels of organizational action (strategic, tactical, and operational)—and its adaptability to the organization's specific context and environment. This flexibility allows the organization to assess its digital maturity while taking into account its realities (budgets, available skills, etc.), all while consistently considering every level of organizational action.

FOR REFLECTION



Repenser la planification, la gestion et le développement de la main-d'œuvre en santé : état de situation, solutions innovantes et recommandations pour sortir de la crise

Racha Soubra, Slim Ayari, Yedidya Ebosiri, Hassane Alami, François Castonguay, Delphine Bosson-Rieutort, Nadia Sourial and Nathalie Clavel

This report presents a summary of the discussions from the 41st edition of the Jean-Yves-Rivard Colloquium, which focused on the workforce crisis in Quebec's health care system. Through four conferences and two roundtables that brought together researchers, health care professionals, managers, decision-makers, union representatives, and patients, the event highlighted the structural, organizational, cultural, and individual factors driving this crisis. The document offers a multi-level analysis of the causes and identifies integrated courses of action, ranging from professional recognition to the modernization of governance and human resource management.

Comparaison des retombées économiques de la récolte de feuillus durs et de l'exploitation acéricole des érablières publiques au Québec

Maurice Doyon and Benjamin Roy



Sugar maple stands located on public land are particularly sought after. They are coveted both for maple syrup harvesting and for the production of timber destined for processing, leading to frequent tensions between the forestry and maple syrup sectors. In this paper, the authors demonstrate that maple syrup production generates greater economic benefits compared to the harvesting and processing of hardwood, even when the least favourable scenario for maple syrup production is compared to the most favourable scenario for the hardwood sector. This marginal dominance of maple syrup production suggests that an optimal resource allocation should favour maple syrup production over hardwood forestry.

SCIENTIFIC PAPERS

Historical and Contemporary Evolution of International Trade: From Mercantilism to the Platform Economy

Thierry Warin

Mis-, Dis-, and Malinformation: A Game-Theoretic Analysis of Costly Truth and Equilibrium Outcomes in Digital Media Ecosystems

Thierry Warin

Beyond PPML: Exploring Machine Learning Alternatives for Gravity Model Estimation in International Trade

Lucien Chaffa, Martin Trépanier and Thierry Warin

Panel Machine Learning with Mixed-Frequency Data: Monitoring State-Level Fiscal Variables

Philippe Goulet Coulombe, Massimiliano Marcellino and Dalibor Stevanovic

All publications

CIRANO news on our social networks



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