

Research Presentation Series

RANKING CITIES: IMPLICATIONS FOR TORONTO

A panel discussion on the use and misuse of global benchmarking studies by policymakers, pundits, and the public

Friday, September 9, 2011, 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Ontario Trade and Investment Centre, Main Theatre, 250 Yonge Street (35th floor)

Dear Colleague,

The Intergovernmental Committee for Economic and Labour Force Development in Toronto (ICE) is delighted to invite you a panel discussion on the use, misuse, and misinterpretation of high-profile city ranking studies by policymakers, pundits, and the public. The panel will feature:

- **Zack Taylor**, Doctoral candidate in the Department of Political Science at the University of Toronto and author of a research report on “*Lies, Damned Lies and Statistics: A Critical Examination of City Rankings*”
- **Randy McLean**, Acting Director, Strategic Growth and Sector Development Economic Development and Culture, City of Toronto
- **John Lorinc**, Urban/municipal issues and business journalist who has contributed to Globe and Mail, Toronto Life, and Spacing Magazine

Zack Taylor will present the findings of his study entitled “*Lies, Damned Lies and Statistics: A Critical Examination of City Rankings*,” commissioned by ICE earlier this year. His study demystifies city ranking studies by evaluating their methodological underpinnings and overall conclusions. Zack’s presentation will provide an excellent opportunity to delve into more than 40 recent city ranking studies to see how Toronto performs and why there is so much variation in its ranking from study to study. Read the full report at <http://icecommittee.org/Research.htm>.

The other two panelists will bring a different perspective to city ranking studies by discussing the impact that these studies have on determining Toronto’s economic competitiveness, steering local economic development policies, and invigorating our desire to be number one.

There is no cost to participate in this forum. A continental breakfast will be served at 9:00 a.m. with the discussion to follow.

I look forward to seeing you on Friday, September 9 at what promises to be a stimulating and topical discussion. **Participation is by invitation only and seating capacity is limited. Please RSVP to info@icecommittee.org** by no later than September 6, 2011. Feel free to call me directly at 416-348-9935 if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,
Enid Slack, Chair
ICE Committee

Register by September 6, 2011
RSVP to info@icecommittee.org
Space is limited