

Development and Use of EBD in the Canadian Context: An Economics Perspective

Workshop: Environmental Burden of Disease

The McLaughlin Centre for Population Health Risk

University of Ottawa

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Objective

To provide observations and potential directions for improving the development and use of EBD indicators for policy in Canada

Overview

- Policy need for EBD indicators is clear!
- Indicator type depends upon the decision choice sought
- Some indicators are more successful than others
- Coordinated efforts of various key players are needed to develop an effective and efficient path forward

Types of Uses and Corresponding Measures for EBD

- Public policy choices and regulations
 - e.g. evaluation (pros and cons) of a proposed initiative – i.e. ‘to do or not to do’
 - Measure: Economic valuation – WTP/A
- Indicator of progress and comparison
 - e.g. comparing alternative interventions when maximizing overall health s.t. a fixed budget – i.e. ‘should we do it this way or that way’
 - Measure: Health indices – QALY, DALY, CEA, CUA

Characteristics of Successful EBD's

- *Defensible*
 - Grounded in literature, sound methods and best effort (time and budget)
- Accessible
 - Meaningful and understandable to any user
- Available
 - Ready for use, now
- Affordable
 - Development and application are friendly to today's operating budgets...
- Integrated
 - Indicators with physical and economic component are often given more attention

Path Forward

- Coordinated efforts among disciplines : policy shapers; physical scientists; statisticians; and, economists
- Prioritize environmental issues and target research across disciplines
- Demonstrate usefulness of EBD research
- Develop domestic and international partnerships and coordinated research programs
- Develop facilitating tools and models (e.g. EVRI)

Contact Information

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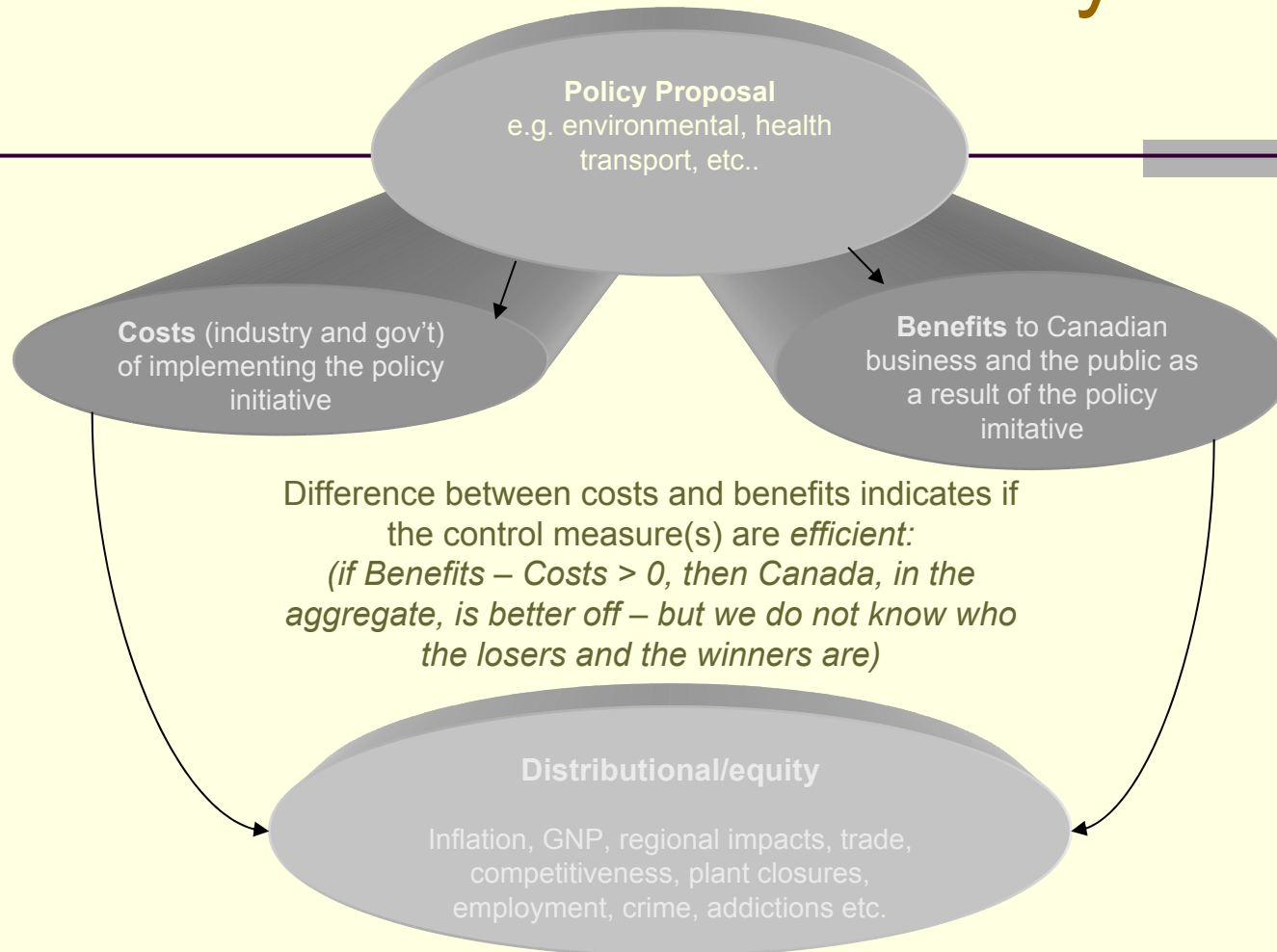
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Economic Evaluation of Policy Proposals



Distributional, equity and social considerations indicate if the control measure(s) will impact one group/sector more than others: (*who are the winners and the losers*)

The four pieces of information taken together provide a complete picture of the impacts of a proposed policy measure