The New Abnormal: “Slowth”
Causes of Slowth

• Population Aging
• Geopolitical Uncertainty
• Income Inequality
• Climate Chaos
Types of Climate Action

- Offset trends
- Mitigate damage
- Improve speed of adaptation

Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) facilitates all three strategies

#ParlAmericasGender
Intersection of Climate Action and Gender Budgeting

- Energy
- Water
- Health Care
- Housing
- Transit

Improved Public Infrastructure Is a Women’s Issue

- Pivot from “dirty” to clean energy sources (reduces carbon emissions)
- Improve access to clean water, energy, etc (frees up paid/unpaid productive time)
- Prevent preventable disease/death
- Reduce volatility in individual lives, economy-wide growth

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The Big Picture

Improve access to basic infrastructure, change the trajectory of women’s lives

Change the trajectory of women’s lives, improve social and economic outcomes
Beyond Climate Action:
Why Practice Gender Budgeting?

• Economic optimization
  – Growth from better resource allocation (L, K, tech)

• Social efficiencies
  – Better use of paid and unpaid labour, lower risk by broadening access to basics

• Fiscal improvements
  – Higher revenues, lower costs, less inequitable results

• Greater Political Accountability
  – Ex ante target setting, ex post review, better data

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Who Practices Gender Budgeting?

• **OECD 2016 survey: 12 nations (plus 1)**
  – Austria, Belgium, Finland, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden….since 2017 Canada

• **IMF survey: 23 nations, mostly non-OECD**
  – Australia, India, Philippines, Bangladesh, Rep. of Korea, Albania, Macedonia, Ukraine, Morocco, Afghanistan, Timor, Leste, Rwanda, Uganda, Mexico, Ecuador, Bolivia, El Salvador
How To Do Gender Budgeting?

Ex Ante

- Establish **baseline**: who gets what?
- **Needs assessment**: what’s missing in the status quo?
- Develop **strategy**: targets/timelines, resources
- **Indicators to change**
  - Rates of violence against women
  - Access to Utilities (water, fuel/energy, telcom)
  - Health/education outcomes
  - % Budget on Housing, Child Care, Education, tax exps
  - Labour Force Participation Rates; Wage Gap
  - Expand Social Security (% with pensions, jobless benefits)
How To Do Gender Budgeting?

Ex Post

• Course correct budgetary resource allocations to achieve performance goals
• Review and assess incidence of budgetary measures (tax and spend)
• Within Finance, outside of Finance (government/opposition); gender audit
• Separate gendered analysis/documents or built into budget (review outcomes from previous budgets; progress on targets/timelines)
How To Talk About Budgets
Costs vs Benefits of Federal Spending

Women use *and* provide more public services

BUT

• It’s easier to calculate costs of spending than benefits
• Focus on taxes/tax cuts is about who pays (“winners and losers”) disconnected from what is being paid for
• It’s harder to measure both benefits of services provision and impacts of service loss (what is relevant time frame; distribution of impacts by age, gender, incomes; direct/indirect benefits)
Who Benefits From Spending? More Low Income Households (Women)

Vermaeten: Fed spending on housing in 1994 was highly redistributive, measured by $ or by % of income
Who Benefits From Spending? More Low Income Households (Women)

CCPA: Government services in 2006 were worth over two times as much as the incomes of the poorest Canadian households.
Who Benefits From Tax Cuts?  
More High Income Individuals (Men)

Policy priority in past 25 years: “More Money In Your Pockets”

Who Do Tax Cuts Reach?
- As of 2017 final tax statistics (2015 incomes)
  - **27.0%** of men did not have taxable income
  - **37.4%** of women did not have taxable income
- Since 2008, data on income class plus gender no longer published

Who Do Services Reach?
- From **what we know** by age, gender and income, typically women are more reliant on public services
- Long-form Census is one source of data
- Administrative data (ex. health care, education, social housing)
- Only Census provides race, immigration status data

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GRB offers a radically different approach to budgeting

Current Focus: on costs
- Focus on budget balance/deficits
- ACCOUNTING FRAMEWORK
- Irony: measures that “save” money end up costing more (health care, prisons, police, justice)

GRB Focus: on benefits
- Focus on improving benchmarks associated with greater well-being
- HEALTH/QoL FRAMEWORK
- Irony: measures that require more “spending” can end up saving more (less health care, jobless benefits, prisons, etc.)

You reap what you sow

#ParlAmericasGender
GRB offers transformative outcomes from budgeting

- System-based, not departmental
- Outcome-oriented, not spending. The focus is on monitoring performance to achieve targets
- Links costs to benefits
- Like population health interventions: improves system “health” by reducing inequities
- Like population health research: we’re in the early stages of learning how to improve measures of benefits/outcomes (fiscal year? 5 years? Lifecycle?)
What Do You Need To Do GRB?

- Ability to track past program spending
  - Public Accounts, Tax Expenditures
- Ability to model costs/benefits of future proposals
- Access to Data
- Interest of government/opposition
- Resources: no $, no strategy

Canada’s Commitment to Equality:


Prepared for the Canadian Feminist Alliance for International Action (FAFIA)
by Armine Yalnizyan

#ParlAmericasGender
How Much $ Buys Change? Size Matters, but…
“It’s not how big it is; it’s how you use it”
Gender Budgeting 101 Takeaways

• Within context of slowth and increasingly fractious politics, distributional considerations in budgets matter more than ever

• Budget measures that tackle gender inequality are rapidly becoming more politically acceptable/popular

• Gender budgeting can improve economic performance, political accountability, and social outcomes

• Such results are unlikely to occur without more public spending, but how you spend is as important as how much you spend
Thank you for your time and your commitment to change

Welcome

THE FUTURE IS NOW