

# Gender Budgeting 101:

## Why Greater Equality Pays Off and Why It's So Hard to Do

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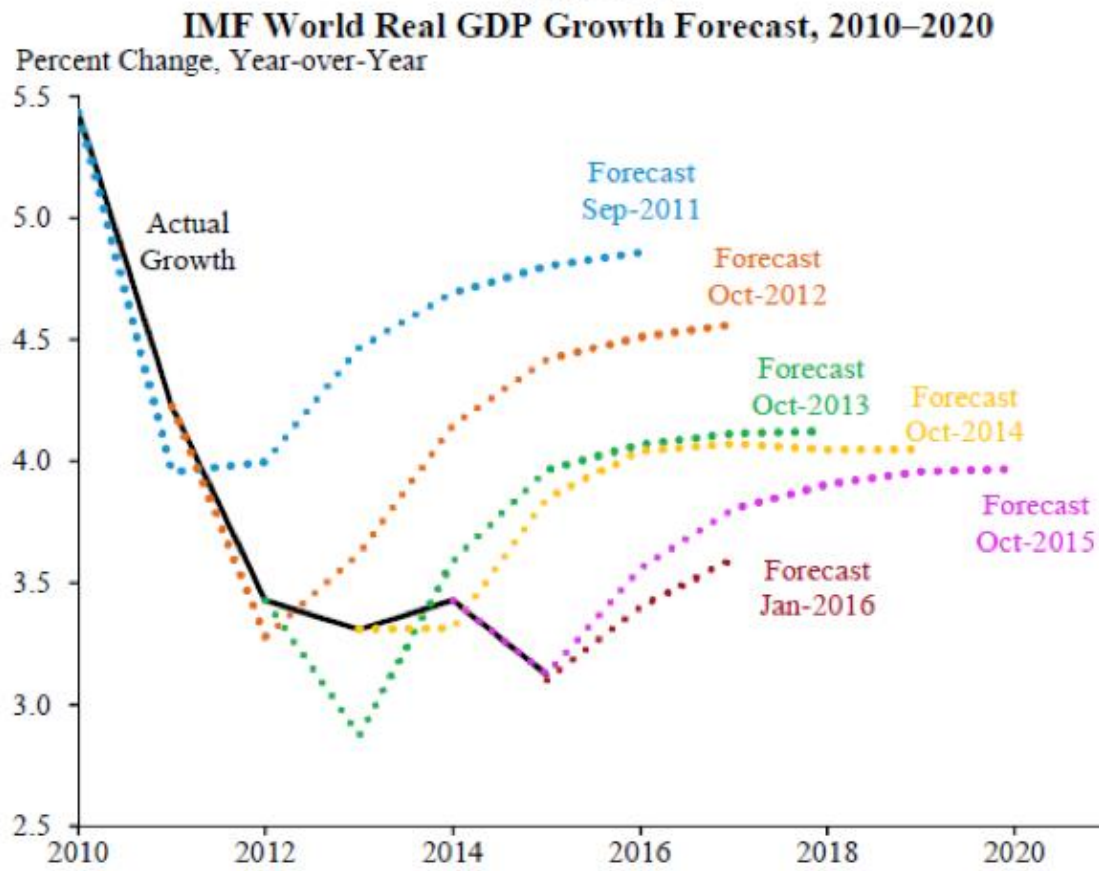
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For social and economic justice

# The New Abnormal: “Slowth”



Figure 3-1



# 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**

# Intersection of Climate Action and Gender Budgeting



- **Energy**
  - **Water**
  - **Health Care**
  - **Housing**
  - **Transit**
- 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

**Improved Public Infrastructure  
Is a Women's Issue**

# 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

# 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

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**Women use \*and\* provide more public services**

**BUT**

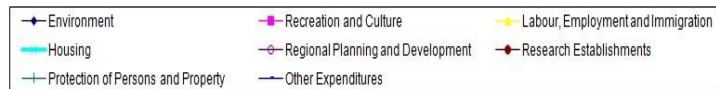
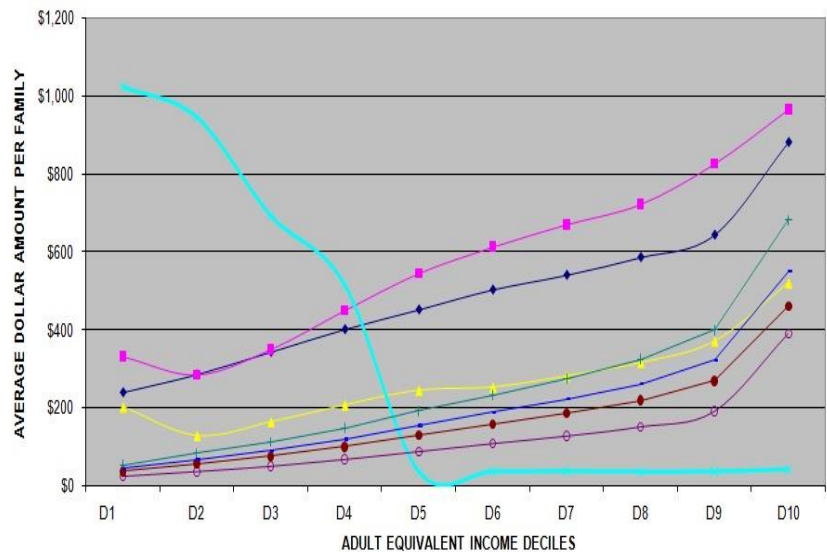
- It's easier to calculate costs of spending than benefits
- Focus on taxes/tax cuts is about who pays (“winners and losers”) disconnected from what is being paid for
- It's harder to measure both benefits of services provision and impacts of service loss (what is relevant time frame; distribution of impacts by age, gender, incomes; direct/indirect benefits)

# Who Benefits From Spending? More Low Income Households (Women)

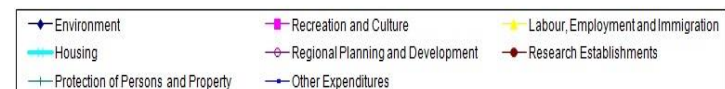
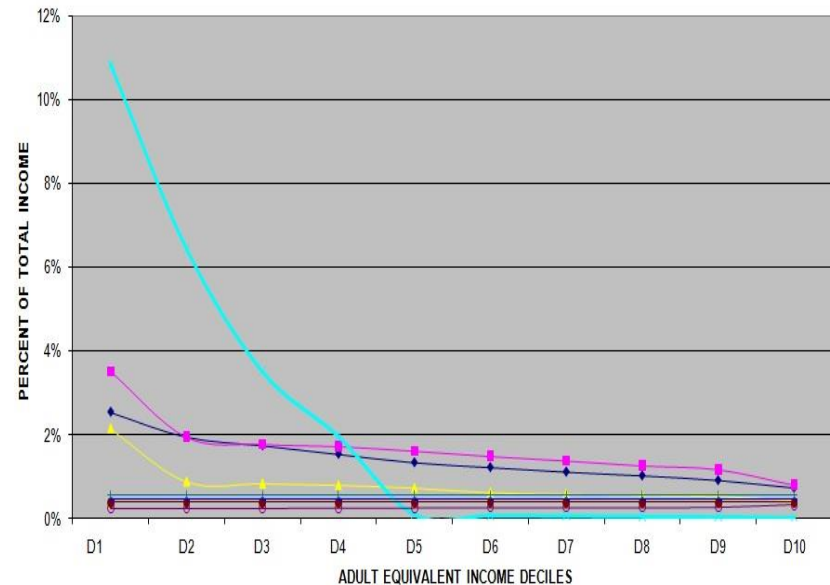


**Vermaeten: Fed spending on housing in 1994 was highly redistributive, measured by \$ or by % of income**

ALL OTHER EXPENDITURE FUNCTIONS: AVERAGE BENEFITS PER FAMILY  
BY ADULT EQUIVALENT INCOME DECILES  
(STANDARD CASE)



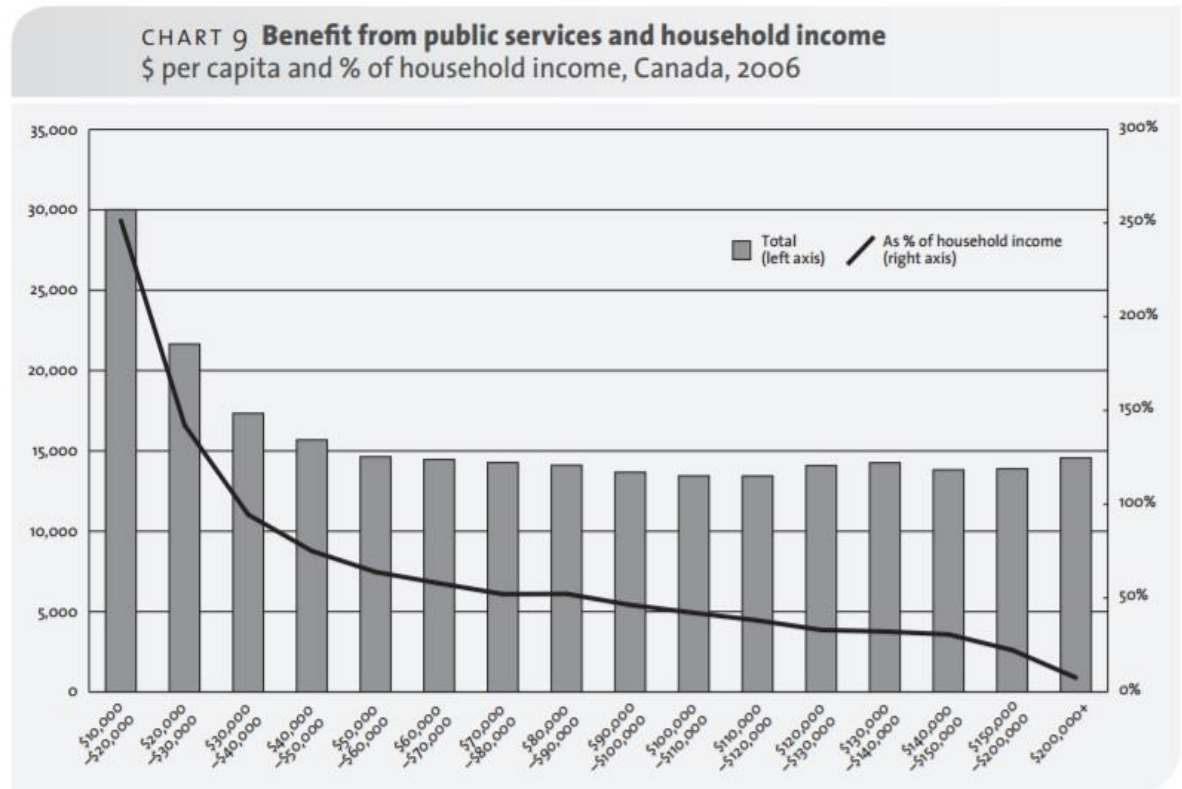
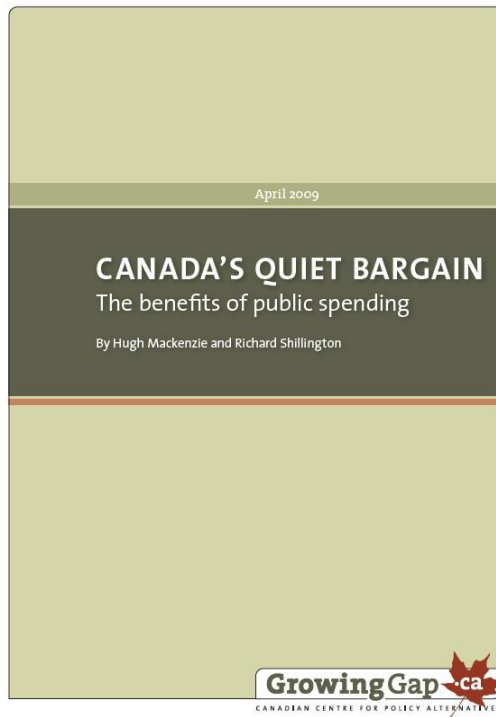
INCIDENCE OF ALL OTHER EXPENDITURE FUNCTIONS  
BY ADULT EQUIVALENT INCOME DECILES



# 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

# 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**

# 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?)**



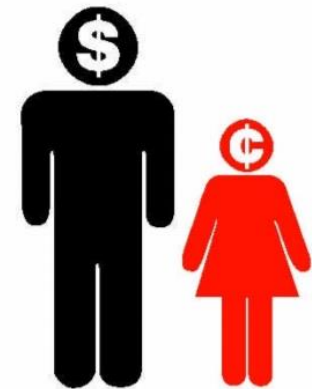
# What Do You Need To Do GRB?



- **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:

A Gender Analysis of the Last Ten Federal Budgets (1995-2004)

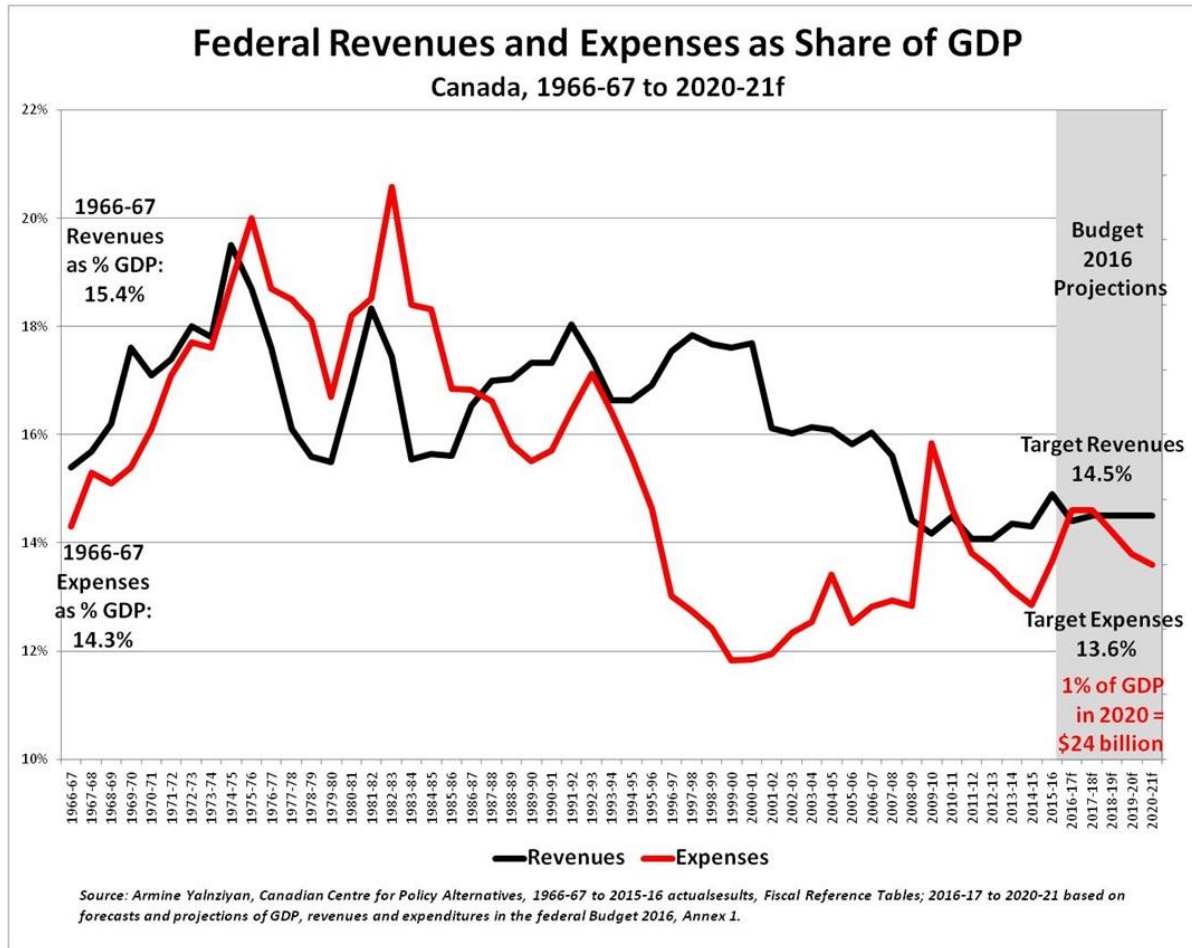


Prepared for the Canadian Feminist Alliance for International Action (FAFIA)

by Armine Yalnizyan

# 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 slowness 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

