

**Table Discussion Notes of March 7th Symposium in Ottawa, 2017**

Table	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 5
	How would you, your family or the sector you work in use estimates of the cost of raising children?	What categories of cost should be considered in calculations of the cost of raising children? Here are some specific considerations for your discussion	Should opportunity costs be included in estimates of the cost of raising children?	4: How, if at all, should cost differences relating to variations in cultural norms or child stability or health challenges be reflected in the estimates of raising children?	What can be done to improve the document as an educational resource for the general public and human service professionals?
<b>Table 1 (on poverty) A</b>	Q1-a: adequacy of childcare benefits; adequacy of social assistance rates (OW, ODSP, EI); variability in different circumstances, need flexible and holistic cost as an indicator for larger assessments (fed. pov reduction strategy)	Rights based approach 9inclusion of lived experience and need their (child/youth) opinion on what is included in cost;input, review based; thinking of budget lines in a holistic way	Yes; OK we should be progressing to a basic income guarantee to give people a chance to welcome opportunity cost on their own, strong benefits + strong social support network)	High cost of rare diseases; Agreed that those cost differences should be calculated; Wealth, what's the role of others (ie, corporations), social resp. of industries; Could it be framed as a range? Case approach? Scenarios?; Indirect costs? Or opportunity costs included?	Include recommendations from today (March 7th symposium)

	<b>B</b>	Q1-b: would be helpful to determine the cost or raising a child in the welfare system; understanding cost of child in shelter (homelessness)	If it is used for parents to decide if they should have kids, then yes; would including it mean we're letting the government off the hook?? Should be <b>free</b> .			We really need the core action of developing a number; Would be great to have academic partners; Best practices from other academics and families; Helpful for policy makers to have the number; Develop a group of youth to advice process
	<b>C</b>	Q1-c: Provides rationale for policy change (evidence tool to build cases). Note: There is much more to poverty than economics. Relying on estimates can be a risk due to the fact that they are not comprehensive; need multiple indicators (quantity and quality)				
	<b>Table2</b>					
	<b>Parents and Support</b>					

	<b>Table 3</b>					
	<b>Childcare/c hildren</b>					
	<b>Table 4 - Financial Planners</b>	a. This would help to determine if the tax exemptions in tax returns are reflective of the costs; Family welfare calculations for additional children could be more accurate.	Already included in our discussion and these are: childcare, transportation, education, housing, food, clothing, opportunity cost, miscellaneous cost, health cost			
	<b>B</b>	By having this information we could aspire to look at where we head to be for the overall wellbeing of the child rather than the bare minimal standard; Childcare is another area of consideration especially with variables across the country.	Yes			

	C	<p>There is a national economic interest in supporting families to have children, therefore more state support for having children has an economic advantage. The estimates can support the need for this. It is not just the budget, it is policies around having children in society. If this is important to a society, what provisions are in place along the continuum beyond parental leave?</p>	<p>When daycare costs are so high, is it worth going to work if the cost is equal to salary? Therefore yes, it should as some are losing out on greater opportunity.</p>			
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	<b>Table 5 (StatsCan)</b>	Important for financial planning, timing, decisions to save; where to live, housing costs, adapt policy re contributions for policies, tax credits, child care benefits, re STC - where would it go? Client need, request from another Dept.	Categories of costs; summer activities, extracurricular, camp, recreation, social, parties			
	<b>B</b>		Core measure + optional to accommodate family diversity; post sec double counting? Savings for later spending; May be not include., since not necessary "essential"; some pay for themselves, like young adults. What would the amount be? Age is very important	From an economic perspective, yes but lots of unmeasured aspects, stress, home schooling, satisfaction. "Affordability" of having children is important for individual decision making but policy as well.		Who should develop? Academics? Estimates should be added. Concerns about adding content to SHS - big survey with lots of content; longitudinal study would decrease response rate; recommendation for a separate survey to collect additional information
	<b>Table 6 (Social Policy)</b>					
	<b>B</b>					

	<b>Table 7</b>					
	<b>Children's Policy and Pov</b>					
	<b>Table 8 (Economists)</b>	a. City childcare and housing fee subsidy	<p>What is the definition of a child? When do they launch? When are they in university? If they are a dependent, disabled? Public infrastructure, subsidies for childcare + university, mental health (youth), costs to parents</p>	<p>Assumptions that parents spend available \$ on kids; Cod Red work in Hamilton connects income and health outcomes; Need to include kids' perspectives: love, pets, goals; Australian child well-being study; Need to incorporate different types of data: not just unmerical enumeration; include videos/story telling.</p>	<p>Impact of disability and health challenges; cultural differences are <b>huge</b>; Aboriginal, racialized, disability (VARIETY of disabilities) using MBM; Add "unaccounted cost" category</p>	<p>Recommendations at the beginning; Fraser as a 'positive' - generates discussion through faculty methodology</p>

	A	<p>Caledon: as LICO is not appropriate; fed. gov't needs to fix MBM; LICO has 31 'households'</p> <p>CASW: work on basic income, advocacy tool.</p> <p>Parent/student: cost of children with cancer to lobby for additional support</p>				
	B	<p>Usable standard; children as an economic choice; #s of families who are home schooling</p>				
	<p><b>Discussion Notes</b> <b>(TABLE NOT SPECIFIED)</b></p>					

Table Notes, no table #	1.c: How could the estimates support decisions and actions by parents, community workers and policymakers?	better informed decision by parents; \$ to support Foster Parent → social assistance? How would it be affected				
	2.a: Are any costs or considerations missing from the paper that should be added?		Recognize the intangible: name it, longitudinal			
	2.b: Should savings for post-sec ed be included?		Yes; Another issue: transition to adulthood			
Table Notes, no table #						



	1.a	Funding, programs, baseline for comparisons, advocacy, community responsibility				
	1.b	outcomes, framing as a family cost				
	2		Missing: social costs; technology			
	4				Should play a major role	
Table Notes, no table #	1	Validation of existing data sources coherence				
	1.a	How do these estimates line up with various data sources that exist? Do they follow similar trends?				
	1.b	Helps families assess their well-being compared to others. Helps in more informed decisions				
	1.c	Amount of social assistance: are they adequate?				
	2.b		Yes			
	3			How to measure intangibles		

	4				Does this distort a national average? For the child, should we not have this cost?	
	5.b					More examples could make it user friendly; Vanier Institute Family Profiles