

**Jeffrey Hicks**  
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**Fields:** Public, Health, Labour  
**Languages:** English, Spanish (Intermediate)  
<https://jeffrey-hicks.com>

## Affiliations

**University of Toronto**  
*Postdoctoral Fellow*  
**Department of Finance**  
*Visiting Researcher*

Toronto  
*Nov 2021-Nov 2023*  
Ottawa  
*May 2018-Aug 2018*

## Education

**University of British Columbia**  
*PhD Economics*

*2015-2021*

**Queen's University**  
*MA Economics*

*2014-2015*

**Mount Allison University**  
*BA Economics*

*2011-2014*

## Research

### Safety Nets and Labour:

The Effect of Reducing Welfare Access on Employment, Health, and Children's Long-Run Outcomes,  
*Jeffrey Hicks, Gaëlle Simard-Duplain, David Green, William Warburton* [\[Paper\]](#)

Cash Welfare and Health Spending,  
*Jeffrey Hicks*

**Journal of Human Resources** (revisions requested)  
[\[Paper\]](#)

The Effects of Field Office Closures on Welfare and Disability Insurance Enrollment,  
*Jeffrey Hicks* [Under Pre-Publication Government Review]

Spillover Effects of Top Income Inequality,  
**Econometrica** (revisions requested)  
*Joshua Gottlieb, David Hemous, Jeffrey Hicks, Morten Olsen* [\[Paper\]](#)

How Would Medicare for All Affect Health System Capacity? Evidence from Medicare for Some,  
**Tax Policy and the Economy, 2021, Vol 3,**  
*Jeffrey Clemens, Joshua Gottlieb, Jeffrey Hicks* [\[Paper\]](#)

### Taxation:

(Short Paper) Administrative Barriers as Tax Enforcement Tools,  
*Wei Cui, Jeffrey Hicks, Michael Wiebe* [\[Paper\]](#)

Cash on the Table? Imperfect Take-up of Tax Incentives and Firm Investment Behavior,  
**Journal of Public Economics, 2022, Vol 208,**  
*Wei Cui, Jeffrey Hicks, Jing Xing* [\[Paper\]](#)

## Grants and Awards

Canadian Labour Economics Forum, Best Paper Award (second place)	2023
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Postdoctoral Award (45,000/year)	2021-2023
UBC Public Scholars Initiative (4,500)	2020-2021
Center for Innovative Data in Economics, Research Grant (22,000)	2019
Center for Innovative Data in Economics, Research Grant (15,000)	2019
CRDCN Emerging Scholars Grant (1,000)	2019
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Doctoral Award (22,000/year)	2018-2020
Albert Whiteley Memorial Fellowship (2,000)	2017-2018
UBC Doctoral Fellowship	2015-2019
Scarthingmoor Award for Best Master's Thesis (8,000)	2015
Canada Graduate Scholarship (SSHRC) (32,000/year)	2014-2015
Tri-Agency Recipient Recognition Award (Queen's) (3,000)	2014-2015

## Professional Activities:

**Referee:** American Economic Journal: Economic Policy (1), Journal of Public Economics (3), Journal of Development Economics (1), Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control (1), Canadian Tax Journal (1), Canadian Public Policy (1), Institute for Research on Public Policy (1)

**Service:** Applied Micro Workshop Organizer (UoT, UBC), Hiring Committee (UBC)

**Policy:** Researcher on the British Columbia Basic Income Commission. [\[Paper\]](#) [\[Paper\]](#)

## Invited Presentations:

UBC Allard Tax Policy Seminar	2023
Canada Economics Association Annual Conference	2023
Canada Public Economics Group Conference	2022
Banff Empirical Microeconomics Conference	2022
Canadian Economics Association Annual Conference	2022
Online Public Finance Seminar (OPFS)	2022
Finances of the Nation	2021
National Tax Association Annual Conference	2019
UBC Allard Law School Tax Administration Workshop	2019
Canadian Research Data Center Network Annual Conference	2019
Oxford Doctoral Business Tax Conference	2019
International Institute for Public Finance Annual Congress	2019
Canadian Economics Association Annual Conference	2019
American Law and Economics Association Annual Conference	2019
Department of Finance	2018
Employment and Social Development Canada	2018
Department of Finance	2018
National Tax Association Annual Conference	2018
Mount Allison University Seminar	2018

## Teaching

### Instructor:

Employment, Wages, and Public Policy (3rd Year Undergrad.), University of Toronto

Evaluations: [F2021: 4.7/5], [W2022: 4.7/5], [F2022: 4.7/5], [W2023: 4.5/5]

### Assistant:

Research Design and Policy Analysis (MA at UBC). Microeconomic Analysis for Public Policy (MPP at UBC). Cost Benefit Analysis (BA at UBC). Principles of Economics (Queen's University). International Trade (Mount Allison University). Intermediate Microeconomics (Mount Allison University). Calculus (Mount Allison University).

## References

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## 100 Word Abstracts for Working Papers

### The Effect of Reducing Welfare Access on Employment, Health, and Children's Long-Run Outcomes

#### [Job Market Paper 1]

Welfare caseloads in North America halved following reforms in the 1990s and 2000s. We study how this shift affected families by linking Canadian welfare records to tax returns, medical spending, educational attainment, and crime data. We find substantial and heterogeneous employment responses that increased average income despite reduced transfers. We find zero effects on aggregate health expenditures, but mothers saw reduced preventative care and increased mental health treatment, consistent with the transition to employment elevating time pressure and stress. We find no effect on teenagers' education and criminal charges as young adults but do find evidence of intergenerational welfare transmission.

### Cash Welfare and Health Spending

#### [Job Market Paper 2]

I explore the interplay between cash welfare programs and health using Canadian administrative data. Health spending doubles before a welfare application, then partially returns to normal levels within three years. Using quasi-experimental variation in application adjudicators, I estimate that welfare receipt has, at most, minor positive effects on universally insured healthcare use. These findings imply that welfare insures against health risk without significantly affecting health outcomes. Welfare does substantially increase pharmaceutical use, which is not universally insured but for which welfare recipients are subsidized, implying that incomplete drug insurance strongly limits medication access among low-income households that cannot access welfare.

### The Spillover Effects of Top Income Inequality

Top income inequality in the United States has increased considerably within occupations. This phenomenon has led to a search for a common explanation. We instead develop a theory where increases in income inequality originating within a few occupations can “spill over” through consumption into others. We show theoretically that such spillovers occur when an occupation provides nondivisible services to consumers, with physicians our prime example. Examining local income inequality across U.S. regions, the data suggest that such spillovers exist for physicians, dentists, and real estate agents. Estimated spillovers for other occupations are consistent with the predictions of our theory.