



The Book Corner

Fraser Institute researcher-recommended books on free market policies and economics

WHO NEEDS JOBS?

SPREADING POVERTY OR INCREASING WELFARE

Pierre Lemieux

In his new book, Pierre Lemieux reveals one of the most pervasive misapprehensions driving government economic policy. He explains why jobs are costs, not benefits; and why, consequently, we need as few of them as possible. Using economic analysis, he illustrates how jobs are not the goal of economic life, and how creating jobs should not be the aim of public policy. He demonstrates why federal programs that seek to create jobs are almost guaranteed to be unnecessary and expensive, and how they undermine productivity throughout the economy.

In one anecdote, he tells how the chainsaw destroyed logging jobs—and made Americans much better off. He argues that successful policies that allow technological change to occur may destroy some jobs, but also create other jobs, and thus improve the standard of living.

He also looks at how income and prosperity are created (by businesses producing what consumers demand), proposes solutions to the unemployment problem, and gives readers the knowledge they need to make sense of the many theories and comments about jobs from North American politicians and economists.

The book is an introduction to the economic way of thinking, and is accessible to the everyday reader with straightforward, non-technical language. With his clear approach, Lemieux takes this controversial and complex topic and makes it understandable, using economic analysis and powerful, real world examples.



Pierre Lemieux

Pierre Lemieux will discuss Who Needs Jobs? Spreading Poverty or Increasing Welfare at the Fraser Institute's Explore Public Policy Issues student seminar in Montréal on February 14, 2015. ■