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INSTITUT ÉCONOMIQUE DE MONTRÉAL

Mathieu Laberge, *Les droits de scolarité et le financement à long terme des universités*, 20 octobre 2008, 4 pages.

http://www.iedm.org/uploaded/pdf/octobre08_fr.pdf

Augmentation des droits de scolarité en fonction du programme d'études.

● L'augmentation asymétrique des droits de scolarité, c'est-à-dire différenciée selon les programmes d'études, permettrait de percevoir un quart du montant que le Québec obtiendrait en fixant les droits de scolarité à la moyenne canadienne. Cette augmentation contribuerait au financement à long terme des universités, qui bénéficieraient d'une augmentation globale de leurs revenus de 110 millions \$ par année. Cette réforme pourrait avoir lieu de 2012 à 2017, afin de permettre aux étudiants de s'y préparer. Même si des hausses plus marquées des droits de scolarité dans certains programmes sont à prévoir par la suite, elles ne se feront pas au détriment de l'accessibilité des études universitaires si elles sont associées à un programme de remboursement proportionnel au revenu pour les étudiants défavorisés.

INSTITUT C.D. HOWE

James Pierlot, *A pension in every pot: Better pensions for more Canadians*, Commentary, no 275, novembre 2008, 33 pages.

http://www.cdhowe.org/pdf/Commentary_275.pdf

Comment les canadiens peuvent-ils améliorer leurs revenus de pension.

● With its Byzantine complexity and jurisdictional overlap, Canadian pension regulation makes it difficult for many workers to save enough for retirement. Access to retirement saving room is inequitably distributed between public and private sector workers. This paper offers some practical approaches to making Canada's private retirement saving system work – for everyone.

CENTRE CANADIEN DE POLITIQUES ALTERNATIVES (CCPA)

Marc Lee and Toby Sanger, *Is BC's Carbon Tax Fair?*, octobre 2008, 29 pages.

http://www.policyalternatives.ca/documents/BC_Office_Pubs/bc_2008/ccpa_bc_carbontaxfairness.pdf

La taxe sur le carbone en Colombie-Britannique, équitable ou pas?

- BC introduced Canada's first broad-based carbon tax in July 2008. At \$10 per tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e), or 2.34 cents per litre of gasoline, the tax is modest, but is scheduled to rise by \$5 per year to a level of \$30 per tonne in July 2012. The tax is revenue-neutral, meaning all revenues from the tax are returned to taxpayers through tax cuts and credits. This study focuses on the issue of fairness of the carbon tax by analyzing its impact across different income groups. As with sales or consumption taxes, lower-income households will feel the impact of carbon taxes more intensely, but distribution is also affected by how the proceeds of the tax are used. We estimate the impact of the tax for different income groups on direct consumption of fossil fuels (primarily in the home and in vehicles) as well as indirect consumption (fossil fuels embedded in other goods and services purchased). We also model the distribution of the tax cuts and credits brought in by the government.

CONFERENCE BOARD OF CANADA

Glen Hodgson, *Fending Off a Canadian Recession: What More Can Be Done?*, novembre 2008, 5 pages.
<http://sso.conferenceboard.ca/documents.aspx?DID=2779>

Après les surplus budgétaires, utilisons les déficits pour se sortir de la crise financière.

- To ensure that we fend off a prolonged recession in Canada, our governments should focus on two areas: maintaining adequate domestic demand and ensuring that firms have sufficient access to credit. The bigger issue related to maintaining domestic demand is whether, and how, our governments should shift from passive to active fiscal policy. Fiscal action that is targeted at regions and sectors in need would be valuable. Regardless of the measures taken, our governments must establish a credible plan to return to fiscal balance as quickly as is practical. The federal government should take the lead on expediting the flow of credit to the private sector. If governments choose to take this route, they will have to ensure that the firms have a credible business plan to warrant the extension. Governments should also make more use of existing public-sector financial institutions to help fill the financing gaps in the marketplace.



ÉTATS-UNIS

TAX POLICY CENTER

Adam Carasso, Harry Holzer, Elaine Maag et C. Eugene Steuerle, *The Next Stage for Social Policy: Encouraging Work and Family Formation among Low-Income Men*, 22 octobre 2008, 36 pages.
http://www.taxpolicycenter.org/UploadedPDF/411774_encouragingwork.pdf

Analyse de la prime au travail américaine et les moyens de l'améliorer.

- The Earned Income Tax Credit enjoyed marked success bringing low-income women into the labor force in recent years. At the same time, labor force participation by low-income or less-education men stagnated, and declined among young black men. In response to these labor market conditions, this paper analyzes several EITC reform options directed at increasing the EITC for low-income workers, in the hopes of drawing these men into the labor force. We estimate the cost of various proposals and put forth an additional proposal that breaks the EITC into two components one focused on individual workers and one focused on supporting children.

Christopher Geissler et Benjamin H. Harris, *The Automatic 401(k): Revenue & Distributional Estimates*, 30 octobre 2008, 16 pages.
http://www.taxpolicycenter.org/UploadedPDF/1001221_automatic_401.pdf

L'impact d'un dépôt automatique au fonds de pension (« 401(k) »).

- One promising aspect of retirement saving policy in recent years is the "automatic" or opt-out features in 401(k) plans. Automatic 401(k)s enable saving even if the worker makes no effort to participate in their 401(k) plan. Prior research has shown that automatic enrolment increased participation in 401(k) from 75 percent to as high as 90 percent of newly eligible employees; with the highest change among lower-income and minority workers. This paper provides estimates of the effects - on federal revenue and the distribution of after-tax income - of a policy under which all 401(k) plans are converted to automatic 401(k)s.

URBAN INSTITUTE

Carol Rosenberg et Kim Rueben, *Back from the Grave: Revenue and Distributional Effects of Reforming the Federal Estate Tax*, 20 octobre 2008, 51 pages.

http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411777_back_grave.pdf

http://www.taxpolicycenter.org/UploadedPDF/411777_back_grave.pdf

Quels seraient les effets sur une réforme de l'impôt sur les successions?

- In this paper we review the current wealth transfer tax rules and the changes introduced in 2001. We offer an overview of the methodology underlying the TPC's estate tax model and then use the model to estimate the number of estate tax filers, taxable returns, and the distribution of burden under current law. Finally, we investigate the revenue and distributional effects of several proposals to reform the estate tax, including those put forth by the presidential candidates.

BROOKINGS INSTITUTION

Henry J. Aaron et Leonard E. Burman, dir., *Using Taxes to Reform Health Insurance: Pitfalls and Promises*, 2008, 300 pages.

<http://www.brookings.edu/press/Books/2008/usingtaxestoreformhealthinsurance.aspx>

Des experts se prononcent sur la fiscalité et le système d'assurance-maladie aux États-Unis.

- Few people realize that one of the nation's largest health programs runs through the tax system. Reformers of all stripes propose to modify current tax rules as part of larger programs to increase coverage and control costs. Is the current system working? Will tax-based reforms achieve their goals? Several of the nation's foremost experts on taxation and health policy address these questions in *Using Taxes to Reform Health Insurance*, a joint product of the Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center and the American Tax Policy Institute. Led by respected economists Henry Aaron of the Brookings Institution and Leonard Burman of the Urban Institute, contributors examine the role taxes currently play, the likely effects of recently introduced health savings accounts, the challenges of administering major subsidies for health insurance through the tax system, and options for using the tax system to expand health insurance coverage. No taxpayer or consumer of health care services can afford to ignore these issues.

NATIONAL TAX JOURNAL

Gerald Auten, Robert Carroll, Geoffrey Gee, «The 2001 and 2003 Tax Rate Reductions: An Overview and Estimate of the Taxable Income Response», 61 *National Tax Journal* 345-64 (September 2008).

<http://ntj.tax.org/wwtax/ntjrec.nsf/login?openagent&login&BFF53CAAB4CC9D78852574F300422250>

Les conséquences des réductions d'impôt de 2001 et 2003 sur les recettes fiscales.

- The Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 (EGTRRA) and the Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003 (JGTRRA) incorporated the main elements of the Bush Administration's tax proposals. The principal feature of this legislation was the reduction in individual income tax rates. Reducing marginal tax rates was

intended to improve the economic incentives to work and invest, reduce the other economic distortions associated with high tax rates, lower overall tax burdens and improve the prospects for economic growth. The paper examines the effects of the lower marginal tax rates by estimating the response of reported taxable income to the lower rates. Using a panel of tax returns spanning the enactment of EGTRRA and JGTRRA, the paper estimates a taxable income elasticity in the base model of about 0.4, with estimates for other specifications and samples ranging from about 0.2 to 0.7.

Joseph E. Aldy, Eduardo Ley, Ian Parry, «A Tax-Based Approach to Slowing Global Climate Change Citation», 61 *National Tax Journal* 493-517 (September 2008).

<http://ntj.tax.org/wwtax/ntjrec.nsf/login?openagent&login&BFF53CAAB4CC9D78852574F300422250>

Les défis de la taxe sur le carbone à l'échelle nationale et internationale.

- This paper discusses the design of CO₂ taxes at the domestic and international level and the choice of taxes versus cap and trade. There is a strong case for taxes on uncertainty, fiscal, and distributional grounds, though this critically hinges on policy specifics and how revenues are used. The efficient near-term tax is at least \$5–\$20 per ton of CO₂ and the tax should be imposed upstream with incentives for downstream sequestration and abatement of other greenhouse gases. At the international level, a key challenge is the possibility that emissions taxes might be undermined through offsetting changes in other energy policies.

Douglas W. Elmendorf, Jason Furman, William G. Gale, Benjamin H. Harris, «Distributional Effects of the 2001 and 2003 Tax Cuts: How Do Financing and Behavioral Responses Matter? », 61 *National Tax Journal* 365-80 (September 2008).

<http://ntj.tax.org/wwtax/ntjrec.nsf/login?openagent&login&BFF53CAAB4CC9D78852574F300422250>

La relation entre les réductions de taxes et la manière dont elles sont financées.

- We reexamine the distributional effects of the 2001 and 2003 tax changes, incorporating two factors omitted in standard distributional estimates: the financing of the tax changes, and the implications of behavioral responses for both after-tax income and other aspects of well-being. Using the standard methodology, most people are made better off by the tax cuts, with the biggest percentage and absolute gains in after-tax income received by high-income households. Using our novel methodology for "dynamic distributional analysis," a large majority of households are made worse off by the tax cuts, especially in the lower three income quintiles.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE

Congressional Budget Office, *The Cyclically Adjusted and Standardized Budget Measures*, octobre 2008, 24 pages.

<http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/97xx/doc9768/10-03-StandBudget.pdf>

Projections des revenus, des dépenses et analyse de certains facteurs influençant l'équilibre budgétaire.

- In September 2008, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released its most recent baseline projections of federal revenues, outlays, and budget balances for the next 10 years. Those projections are subject to procedures under which CBO assumes the continuation of current laws and policies affecting taxes and mandatory programs and extrapolates the growth of discretionary spending by using projected rates of inflation. According to CBO's projections, under current tax and spending policies, the budget deficit would increase from \$161 billion in 2007 to \$407 billion in 2008 and \$438 billion in 2009. Measured relative to the size of the economy—that is, as a percentage of gross domestic product, or GDP—the deficit would be 2.9 percent of GDP in 2008 and 3.0 percent in 2009. The size of the budget deficit is influenced by temporary factors, such as the effects of the business cycle or onetime shifts in the timing of federal tax receipts and spending, and by the longer-lasting impact of such factors as tax and spending legislation, changes in the long-term

(trend) growth rate of the economy, and movements in the distribution and proportion of income subject to taxation. To help separate out those factors, this report presents estimates of two adjusted budget measures: the cyclically adjusted deficit or surplus (which attempts to filter out the effects of the business cycle) and the standardized- budget deficit or surplus (which removes the effects of other factors in addition to those of the business cycle).

UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Uwe Reinhardt, Ph. D., *The Imperative of Enacting Health Reform Now: an Economic Perspective*, 19 novembre 2008, 26 pages.

<http://finance.senate.gov/hearings/testimony/2008test/111908urtest.pdf>

Analyse économique d'une réforme du système de santé américain.

- The reform of our health system – especially the extension of reliable health insurance coverage to the currently uninsured – should indeed receive the highest priority in the Congress and the new Administration. As I shall argue below, in the decade ahead our traditional employment-based health insurance system is likely to deteriorate drastically for low-wage employees. While the measures you propose to shore up that system can arrest the pace of this deterioration, you are to be applauded for proposing to put in place also a reliable parallel health-insurance system that can capture Americans displaced by the employment-based system and provide them with the financial security citizens in all other industrialized nations have long enjoyed.

CENTER ON BUDGET AND POLICY PRIORITIES

Chye-Ching Huang, *Putting US Corporate Taxes in Perspectives*, 27 octobre 2008, 3 pages.

<http://www.cbpp.org/10-27-08tax.pdf>

Lumière sur l'impôt des sociétés aux États-Unis.

- The U.S. corporate tax burden is smaller than average for developed countries. Corporations in 19 of the member states of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development paid 16.1 percent of their profits in taxes between 2000 and 2005, on average, while corporations in the United States paid 13.4 percent. Nevertheless, some have argued that U.S. corporate tax rates unduly burden U.S. companies by pointing to the country's top statutory tax rate, which is 35 percent. For example, a recent Wall Street Journal editorial calling for corporate tax cuts noted that this is the second highest top statutory tax rate among developed countries. While true, this gives the false impression that the corporate tax burden is greater here than in other developed countries. Because the U.S. tax code offers so many deductions, credits, and other mechanisms by which corporations can reduce their taxes, the actual percentage of profits that U.S. corporations pay in taxes – or what analysts refer to as their effective tax rate – is not high, compared to other developed countries.

Chye-Ching Huang and Gillian Brunet, *The Skewed Benefits of Tax Cuts*, révisé le 24 novembre 2008, 10 pages.

<http://www.cbpp.org/2-4-08tax.pdf>

Les avantages fiscaux accordés à la classe aisée et la répartition des coûts inhérents parmi les autres contribuables.

- The top 1 percent of households (currently those with incomes over \$450,000) will receive almost \$1.2 trillion in tax cuts over the next ten years, if the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts are extended and relief from the Alternative Minimum Tax is continued. By 2010, the tax cuts will average more than \$60,000 a year for households in the top 1 percent – and more than \$150,000 a year for households with incomes above \$1 million. The cost of the tax cuts (when fully in effect) for people with incomes over \$1 million will exceed the total amount the federal government devotes to K-12 and vocational education, and it will exceed what the federal government spends on hospital and other medical care for veterans. The

annual cost of the tax cuts for those with incomes over \$1 million also will exceed the total savings in each of the next five years from the cuts the President's budget proposes in an array of domestic non-entitlement programs, including education, health research, environmental programs, and others.

THE INSTITUTE ON TAXATION AND ECONOMIC POLICY

The Progressive Income Tax: An Essential Element of Fair and Sustainable State Tax System, Policy Brief #41, novembre 2008, 2 pages.

<http://www.itepnet.org/pb41pit.pdf>

Les avantages d'un impôt sur le revenu progressif dans les états.

- In recent months, a few vocal critics have pointed to state personal income taxes as the source of a variety of fiscal and economic problems, arguing that it has enabled wasteful spending or fueled the volatility of revenue collections. Accordingly, some of these critics have called for the outright repeal of the income tax, while others have suggested making it significantly less progressive. Such proposals, if acted upon, would make it all but impossible for state tax systems to produce revenue in a fair and sustainable fashion. This policy brief examines the contributions a progressive income tax makes towards two fundamental goals in state tax policy and describes several reforms states could adopt to address some of the problems wrongly attributed to progressive income taxes.



ROYAUME-UNI

HM TREASURY

HM Treasury, *The Case for a Concerted International Fiscal Response*, novembre 2008, 40 pages.

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pbr08_internationalfiscalresponse_853.pdf

Les efforts pour lutter contre la crise économique doivent être coordonnés au niveau international.

- The world economy faces a serious economic downturn arising from the severe dislocation in the financial system. The magnitude and speed of the downturn, and the uncertainty over the effectiveness of monetary policy in current conditions, warrant a substantial fiscal policy response in line with the agreement of the G20 leaders on 15 November. To be effective this needs to be timely and targeted, and also temporary so as to ensure sustainable public finances in the medium term. A concerted international fiscal response, tailored to each country's specific situation, would enhance its effectiveness and help build confidence. Action now would help to limit the depth of the downturn and restore growth.

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