Canada’s leading thinkers are working on ways to make Canadian society more just, fair and equitable.

Humanities and social science researchers are tackling questions of social justice and inequality by exploring ways to reduce disparities. They are working to understand and address persistent challenges in Canada’s society and economy, such as unemployment, child poverty and access to housing and education. Income inequality has increased over the last two decades, and some researchers make the case that large income gaps diminish economic growth if Canada is not leveraging the skills of all its citizens.

We’re looking for ways to reduce inequality by:

■ Focusing on children’s well being to break the cycle of poverty
■ Examining how discrimination, sexism and racism limit opportunity
■ Addressing inequalities in health, education and employment for Indigenous peoples
■ Learning how to integrate new Canadians into schools and jobs
■ Building economic models to help make the case for affordable housing
■ Assessing the impact of raising minimum wages

SMART IDEAS FOR A BETTER TOMORROW
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PATRICK TURMEL, PROFESSOR OF PHILOSOPHY, UNIVERSITÉ LAVAL
Dr. Turmel’s research addresses inequalities in our cities and democratic institutions. He explores the relationship between healthy public spaces and just societies. His most recent work examines how taxation and regulation can help achieve important public goals, such as social and economic efficiencies, political freedom and reduced income inequality.

KRISHNA PENDAKUR, PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS, SIMON FRAZER UNIVERSITY
Understanding and documenting poverty, discrimination and inequality is the focus of Dr. Pendakur’s work. He uses empirical research to document challenges faced by visible minorities, Indigenous people and the poor. His research puts these challenges in economic terms, to uncover how to help the disadvantaged through redistributing income.