

Title: *Change in expenditure patterns other households, 1982 - 2003*

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The paper compares expenditure patterns of Canadian households "near retirement" (reference person aged 55-64) with those of households "partly or fully retired" (reference persons 65-74 and 75+). While income drops dramatically with retirement, expenditures take some time to adjust. Also demographic changes occur from age 55 onwards as household composition changes from couples with children to couples only to being unattached - women being the majority among households in the 75+ group - and all of these demographic transitions affect expenditures. Do patterns vary by gender of the elderly? Since many retirees have no personal savings or work pensions, the paper looks at the expenditures of those totally dependent on government transfers. A profile of those spending more than their income is presented. Finally, we look at the change over time in the welfare of different groups using Sen's welfare index. The analysis is based on the 1982 Family Expenditure Survey and 2003 Survey of Household Spending conducted by Statistics Canada.