Principles of Cost-Benefit Analysis in a Canadian Context

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Cost–benefit analysis (CBA), sometimes called benefit costs analysis (BCA), is a systematic approach to evaluating the desirability of a policy or project. The guiding principle of evaluating benefits is to list all (categories of) parties affected by an intervention. Government guidebooks for the application of CBA to public policies include the Canadian guide for regulatory analysis, Australian Cost-Benefit Analysis Guide, and the Canadian Cost-Benefit Analysis Guide by Professor, Department of Economics, Queen's University, Kingston, Canada.

In an intertemporal context, the appropriate decision rule is the present value.