**Project Proposal: Gross Domestic Product: What, Why, When and How.**

**Organization**

The Library of Parliament’s (LOP) Parliamentary Information and Research Service (PIRS) provides reference and research services to parliamentarians on non-partisan, confidential and timely basis. This service is tailored to the needs of parliamentarians and covers a wide range of social and economic policy areas.

PIRS frequently produces detailed analysis under short notice. To ensure high-quality service, PIRS often proactively produces detailed background documents on emerging subjects and topics that could be of interest to parliamentarians.

PIRS’ offices are located at 50 O’Connor Street (corner of Queen), in Ottawa.

**Supervision**

PIRS brings together over 100 analysts and research assistants who work within 12 subject area sections. This project would be carried out in cooperation with Marc LeBlanc, the manager of the Government, Industry and Finance Section, and Emmanuel Preville (emmanuel.preville@parl.gc.ca), an experienced economist, would also supervise the work.

**Project**

The project consists of writing a reference document on Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

- What is GDP?
- What are the different measures of GDP (Output, expenditures and income base)?
- What is GDP at market, basic price and at Purchasing Power Parity?
- What does GDP in current, constant and chained dollar mean?
  - Provide visuals of each measures and how they relate to each other
• Why is GDP used and are there other measures (i.e. well-being index) available?
• When is it appropriate to use various different measures of GDP?
  o Provide concrete examples.
• If time permits: How is GDP calculate and how is the data collected?

**Incentives for the selected candidate**

This project would provide the selected candidate with the opportunity to:

• acquire advanced research ability toward making something with real-world application;
• acquire advanced research experience on data visualisation which could help the student pursue graduate studies;
• gain knowledge about a topic that receives on-going interest in Canada;
• participate directly in the parliamentary democratic process;
• work independently, while drawing on the experience of an expert researcher;
• familiarize themselves with research in a parliamentary context, especially examining questions and issues in an unbiased, non-partisan manner; and
• familiarize themselves with the LOP and the work of PIRS.

**Required qualifications**

• Reliability
• Ability to work independently
• Skilled at using Microsoft Excel and R
• Ability to be creative in presenting data and difficult concepts for non economists
• Interest in the subject matter

**Official languages**

The student will have the opportunity to work in the official language of his/her choice.