An Assessment of the Pace of Change in the Canadian Labour Market

The Centre for the Study of Living Standards (CSLS) undertakes research projects related to the Canadian labour market. One project that the CSLS is currently developing is an attempt to quantify the pace of change in the Canadian labour market. Some argue that, given technological developments such as AI and robotics, the labour market is undergoing unprecedented structural change. Others see current developments as a continuation of past trends, with no major break in the pace of change.

This Directed Research project will contribute to this research program by providing an assessment of the issues related to the quantifying of trends in the labour market. The project will consist of four parts. The first part will be an examination of labour market variables one may wish to include in an assessment of the pace of labour market change, such as employment by industry, by occupation, by skills category, educational attainment, by region, by gender by age group, by class of worker, by standard/non-standard employment, etc. The second part will identify the labour market data that are available for analyzing the variable related to assessing the pace of change in the Canadian labour market. The third section will be a review of the methodologies available to quantify the pace of structural change in a labour market. The fourth and final part of the project, time permitting, will be the application of the most relevant methodologies to data for the Canadian labour market to estimate the pace of change over time.

The Directed Research project will provide the student an opportunity to acquire detailed knowledge on the Canadian labour market, including data sources, labour market trends, and methodologies to analysis and better understand these trends.

Contact information:

Dr. Andrew Sharpe
Centre for the Study of Living Standards
E-mail: andrew.sharpe@csls.ca