

## **A Review of the Literature on the Valuation of Unpaid Labour and Implications for the Index of Economic Well-being**

The Index of Economic Well-being (IEWB), developed by the Centre for the Study of Living Standards (CSLS), includes in the consumption domain unpaid labour (Thomas and Ugucconi, 2016). This variable is calculated based on estimates of the number of hours of unpaid work provided by persons 15 and over in a household each year, with unpaid work defined as both work within the home such as gardening and work outside the home, such as volunteer work. multiplied by the replacement wage. The IEWB for Canada and the provinces currently estimates of the value of unpaid work for the 1981 to 2018 based on benchmark Statistics Canada estimates of unpaid hours work from time use surveys.

This Directed Research project will contribute to the CSLS research effort related to the improvement of the methodology behind the IEWB by conducting a review of the literature on the concept of unpaid labour and making recommendations based on this review to revise the current treatment of unpaid work in the IEWB. The issue of the valuation of unpaid work is very topical as it is part of the current United Nations revisions to the System of National Accounts.

The project will consist of three parts. The first part will review the concept of unpaid in the literature, with particular attention to how it has been treated if at all in metrics of well-being such as the OECDE How's Life Index. The second part will make recommendations for changes to the current treatment related to unpaid work for the IEWB, based on what is seen as the most persuasive arguments found in the literature. Time permitting, and if it is found that unpaid should continue to be included in the IEWB, the third part of the project can formulate a new definition of unpaid work and develop estimates based on this definition for the IEWB.

The Directed Research project will provide the student an opportunity to acquire detailed knowledge on the concept of unpaid labour and to apply this knowledge to improve a metric of well-being, the IEWB.

### Reference

Thomas, Jasmin and James Ugucconi (2016) "A Tepid Recovery: The Index of Economic Well-being for Canada and the Provinces, 1981-2014," CSLS Research Report 2016-05, June,  
<http://www.csls.ca/reports/csls2016-05.pdf>

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