The Task

This internship will measure and analyze the incidence of populist authoritarian rhetoric in the Canadian federal election of October 2019, and its relationship with political behaviour by the federal government that is elected through that exercise. The intern will prepare a daily digest of political statements made during and after the campaign, compare with the types of rhetoric known to correlate with authoritarian behaviour by office-holders, and inform discussion among CIC members on the topic. After the election the intern will identify incidents in which democratic values or institutions may be challenged by the same actors and draw conclusions on the accuracy of these correlations in the Canadian federal context.

Statement of research question(s) and how this course will answer the question(s)

The CIC hopes to spark discussion among Canadians on the resilience of the democratic process in the face of the increasing presence of populist rhetoric among political actors both the federal level. This research program will contribute to that goal by providing a regular flow of data drawn from contemporary political debates on the incidence of populist rhetoric that might signal a weakening of democratic values.

The research will draw on insights from pre-eminent political scientists Steven Levitzky and Daniel Ziblatt, who drew from decades of research into dozens of national case studies to identify narratives that suggest an aspiring political leader will exhibit authoritarian tendencies once in power. In their 2018 book How Democracies Die, Levitzky and Ziblatt identify four types of statements made before political candidates assume office that correlate with activities to undermine democratic institutions and practices that those same individuals undertook while in office. These include:

- Rejection of the democratic rules of the game
- Denials of the legitimacy of political opponents
- Tolerance or promotion of violence
- Willingness to curtail the civil liberties of opponents

Criteria and methods to measure success

On a daily basis, the intern will review Canadian political news and identify statements by political candidates of any political party that match the four types of statements above. He or she will produce a regular digest to be shared with the CIC President and Research Director, Ben Rowswell, who will confirm whether the statements do indeed match the patterns identified by Levitzky and Ziblatt.

Once a month, the intern will compile a monthly list of these statements and conduct an analysis to identify any trends in political affiliation, region, and demographic characteristic of the political candidates or leaders making the statements. This analysis will be used to refine search methods and to sharpen judgment about the classification of the statements.

Every three months the intern will share findings with the National Office team for their input into the digital communications channels of the CIC, for discussion among CIC members.
At the end of the internship the intern will compare statements identified throughout the process with behaviour exhibited by the political leaders elected to office in October 2019. The resulting research paper will be eligible for publication in the signature research series of the CIC "Behind the Headlines," published since 1946 in hardcopy and since 2017 online.

**Grading Scheme**

- The daily digest prepared by the intern will be assessed every month (September, October, November, January, February, March). 10% for each monthly (6) assessment. 60% total
- The research paper to be submitted to Behind the Headlines will be assessed at the end of the internship. 35%
- Reflective Essay - Write a short essay (500-1000 words) in which you describe the internship experience and reflect on its applicability to the PCJ academic program (to be graded by the PCJ Program). 5%

**Number of projected meetings between CIC and PCJ Intern**

Meetings with the CIC will happen twice weekly - once with all staff and once with President and Research Director Ben Rowswell

**Application Process**

Please submit an application no later than 6 pm on Friday, August 23, 2019 to Ben Rowswell at ben@thecic.org. Please include a cover letter, your resume, a writing sample and the contact details of two references, ideally people that have supervised you in the past.

*Please note that this internship is unpaid. The successful applicant will be enrolled in PCJ499H1F and will receive 0.5 credit for the term of the internship (September 2019 – April 2020).*