

Employment Reviews

About 40 years ago it was believed that with the new technology on the horizon working time would be no more than 32 hours a week. There would be a lot more time for leisure, developing hobbies, interests, and upgrading, etc. after a day's work.

It hasn't worked that way. Technology has made our lives busier with more problems in need of solving. With much new technology we search for terrorism, struggle into space, use up all our resources, pollute and destroy our environment, make more products than consumers know what to do with and clutter up living space. Some technology is like a hammer in search of a nail; for other technology they work years around the clock for magical solutions. The demand for technological expertise is immense. It keeps business frantic and has not brought any contentment to people. Results are destabilizing. Lifestyles are all the way from restless to overwhelming and burnt-out.

It has made life busier, especially for women, who now need jobs to make ends meet with wages unequal to men's, usually with a family to care for - either a young family or an elderly relative - and do the housework, too. Public daycare would be a great boon to families, and especially to women. Many different time variances and work adjustments have been adopted to suit family needs. Now to keep a job it may be necessary to work 50 or 60 hours a week, or some weeks. It should be illegal for nurses and doctors to work more than 8 hours a day for everyone's health, including patient safety. Time should never trump health needs. Anything less than 32 hours a week should be considered part-time, with public pension benefits for all, including temporary, casual or on contract; minimum wages must increase - every body deserves a living wage. Outsourcing is not advancement in work ethic and should be abandoned. A steady work force (instead of working on contract) is capable of doing different kinds of jobs while developing their skills and expertise - you have skilled workers when you need them. Leisure could even be integrated throughout a person's career.

Paul Martin promised much needed daycare spaces. Will there be enough? We want daycare for all children who need it, gender equal pay for equal value in work and work-life flexibilities, or adjustments in employer-employee consultations and arrangements. This would reflect what is wanted from the modern economy.

Retirement should not be mandatory for older workers. Human rights legislation should make retirement completely voluntary after the age of 60. There could at this time also be offered training or re-training

The Employment Standard Code should apply where there are more than 2 workers. To assure compliance with regulations use administrative penalties, publish violator's names, educate and post employment standard at workplace. Protect the education of all children under 16.

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