

Tuesday » June
6 » 2006

Many Canadians' work is never done: vacation poll

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TORONTO (CP) - Torontonians may be notorious as people who say "Thank goodness it's Monday," but it seems it isn't just denizens of the country's largest city who are reluctant to drag themselves away from work.

Nationally, employed Canadians fail to take 32 million vacation days annually, effectively donating \$5.2 billion worth of toil to their employers, according to a new poll.

Working Canadians are entitled to an average of 19 vacation days this year - down from 21 last year, and representing the shortest vacations in the developed world except in the United States (14 days) and Australia (17 days) - according to the Ipsos Reid survey conducted for travel operator Expedia.ca.

The poll indicates 24 per cent of Canadian workers do not use all of their vacation time, and one-tenth don't take any vacation days.

Yet 22 per cent said they would be willing to exchange a lower salary for more time off.

Reasons for not taking a full vacation included scheduling failures (11 per cent) and "too busy at work" (nine per cent).

And 69 per cent of those questioned said they feel stress just before, after or during a vacation.

The online survey of 1,020 adults in late April claims a 95 per cent probability of representing the whole population within a margin of error of 3.1 percentage points.

The average Canadian entitlement of 19 vacation days compares with 39 days in France.

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