

Northern Insights

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 vation better than RRSPs.

"You get a 20 per cent return on your investment if you buy a new stove, fridge or freezer. I've evaluated my own home, where I can get a 50 per cent reduction in my electrical bill. By investing \$1,500, I can save \$300 a year."

It was a conference that made a lot of sense, just like Tanzer did back in 1974. Energy Expo '92 provided a fresh rationale for the present round of energy efficiency programs in Northwestern Ontario. Unlike the programs spawned by *The Energy Crisis* of 1974, this time economic renewal is motivating us. We're no longer driven by fear of scarcity—just plain good economic sense.

Employment equity will need tough laws

The proposed Employment Equity Law will need tough regulations if progress towards equality is to become a reality, the Federation of Women Teachers' Associations of Ontario has said.

In a report released at its Annual Meeting at the Toronto's Royal York Hotel, the Federation, Ontario's largest teacher organization, said that "we only have to look at the progress of women in education to know that legislation is required. The voluntary approach to employment equity clearly has not worked."

The Federation recognizes that the regulations must address the key elements of effective employment equity programs for the targeted groups: aboriginal peoples, persons with disabilities, racial minorities and women.

"The Federation intends to work co-operatively with the government and with representatives of all designated groups to ensure the development of the best possible legislation", said Ada Hill in her presentation, "but we must not allow the Boards to slow their implementation of current Ministry directives while the legislative process continues. We must have workplace equality for those people who have waited far too long".

Each local WTA will be appointing an employment equity representative who will assist in monitoring the progress in each school board across Ontario.

Employees want their employers to go green

Canadians want their employers to do more to promote good environmental practices in the workplace. According to a June 1992 national survey, 80 per cent of employees polled said their company can do more to be environmentally responsible. The survey, conducted by Decima research, indicated that Canadian office workers are increasingly inter-

ested and involved in taking steps to respond to environmental need in their workplaces.

Some 60 per cent of those polled indicated their office now has an office recycling program in place, up over the previous year when only 53 per cent said their office had a program. And 91 per cent said that employees are more inter-

ested in good environmental practices compared to a year ago. A key to increased participation appears to be having adequate information appears to having adequate information.

Moving beyond basic office waste reduction and recycling requires a more comprehensive approach and new information. One Canada company, Pitney

Bowes of Canada, has just released the *Green Office Guide*, designed to assist companies in developing broadly based environmental programs for the workplace.

The publication was developed with the assistance of the Harmony Foundation of Canada, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing environmental education programs.



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