

Job seeker holds hope for full-time work

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young people," she said. "They don't tend to give that level of loyalty to an employer."

Linda Christensen was prepared, upon entering the job market in the mid-70s, for a high level of mobility. Venturing into the relatively new realm of computer programming, she had been prepared for the necessity to move on in order to move up.

"They said every couple of years, you're going to change jobs," the 46-year-old Aurora woman said. "If you want to get ahead, you've got to move around."

And for a decade, Ms Christensen was content with that. But as time went on, she began to seek positions that offered chances of in-house advancement. But she was dis-

appointed. Rather than offer training to help existing staff keep up with the quickly-changing industry, employers simply opted to replace them.

"They just brought in people who had the experience," Ms Christensen said.

Opportunities became fewer as the IT sector's contraction became more pronounced.

Last fall, Ms Christensen was laid off. She has been on employment insurance benefits since.

Although she has been taking courses and has enrolled in job-finding programs sponsored by Human Resources Development Canada, Ms Christensen despairs over the loss of what seemed like a career with limitless opportunities a few decades ago.

"It's disheartening. I feel cheated, especially with the

industry I chose," she said. "It's not something that's gone out of fashion. Computers were supposed to be it forever."

Although she admits to some disappointment as well, Ms Fried has vowed not to give up on her quest for a steady position as an editor.

She has been working tirelessly, sometimes volunteering her services, to build a portfolio. And she haunts trade shows in an attempt to make those invaluable contacts that may, some day, yield a job offer.

"I guess you could say I've reorganized my goals. I've started thinking a lot more long-term than I was before," she said.

"At this point, what I want from an entry level position is just a chance to learn and build on the experience I have."

"I think I'm getting there."

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