

# The Belleville Intelligencer

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Sears Canada employees laid off in Belleville will get to watch their jobs go overseas to the Philippines and Europe. They have become a victim of outsourcing as CEOs cut costs to satisfy shareholders.

Employees let go in Belleville are just part of a more than 1,600 person reduction in the Sears Canadian workforce.

Workers in Canada are being abandoned in order to save costs. Canadian values of looking after our own citizens have gone wayward in our attempt to chase the almighty dollar. Managing costs has become a euphemism for laying off employees and increasing unemployment. But, the bottom line for shareholders will improve.

Sears and other companies -- RBC comes to mind -- have found that outsourcing is wonderful. Sears began years ago moving much of its IT operations overseas.

For the last seven years Sears' revenues have decreased. Sears has been selling off properties, including its anchor store in the Eatons Centre (Nordstrom enters in 2016). Competition is fierce with Target, Walmart and soon to be US based, Nordstrom moving into the retail market (free trade good?).

This is the background faced by a CEO running a Canadian company, using Canadian workers. Thus, cuts are necessary for the business to stay afloat and outsourcing is a must in order to remain competitive, say the CEOs.

Having a social conscience is not part of the Canadian business mentality; perhaps it never was.

So, instead of working on making Sears the go to spot for customers and saving Canadian jobs, CEOs outsource. Rather than sticking up for the Canadian worker, they discard them with statements such as, 'cuts are necessary for the health of the company', or 'we need to restructure the business model'.

The effect on the worker is overlooked, forgotten, and apparently not that important or significant. No wonder Canadian unemployment numbers continue to grow.

Outsourcing Canadian jobs needs to stop. It is hurting the economy, badly. Unemployed Sear's workers will not be spending or contributing towards the stagnating economy.

Reducing costs comes at an immediate financial gain but the Canadian human price is an enormous loss. Taking care of Canadian workers has become secondary to the primary goal of making money. Some will argue that is okay, others not.

Contracting out or outsourcing has been ongoing for the last several years and is done so by many businesses. Why pay for payroll taxes or benefits, if you can pay slave labour wages of \$11.20 a day? Paying cheap labourers in a different country with lax or non-existent easier labour laws helps the bottom line.

Making a profit versus keeping relatively good paying Canadian jobs is what outsourcing has become. A moral dilemma to the bleeding heart, strictly market conditions to the capitalist. Why bother to train workers for paying jobs if you are going to ship jobs overseas? Why bother to invest in Canadian workers?

The age of the Internet has eliminated boundaries and the willingness for companies to hire and train within borders for certain jobs. No wonder the middle class is disappearing.

Trying to find the solution/answer to outsourcing Canadian jobs is a much needed debate. Stopping the loss of middle class jobs is worthy of discussion.

Do Canadian values mean anything anymore or have we become part of a global village in which the market strives for cheap labour and low cost goods for the consumer (another issue) in order to secure profits for a few shareholders. Do we give up a few dollars in order to save Canadian jobs?

At the moment, Canadian workers are secondary to shareholders profits.

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