

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE 2005-10-13

Bell has announced that they will no longer be granting days off on Monday's & Fridays.

Our collective agreement states days off are to be mutually agreed to. It also says pending service requirements. Yet again Bell is trying to exploit their best asset [Bell Technicians] by abusing the collective agreement. We have always respected the fact that sometimes the end of the month can be demanding on Mondays and Fridays and have curtailed a long weekend to ensure service to our customers. Cable cuts which affect the public safety we answer without question. Now unilaterally, Bell just wants you to forgo all Mondays and Fridays. Maybe they lack the ability to schedule properly and this makes it easier for their skilled managers. It's not like they have a shortage of reserve contractors. They have more contractors now than they ever had. You earn your days off! Who wants a day off in the middle of the week when you can piggyback on a weekend? Bell has a huge absenteeism rate. No kidding, the main reason people miss work is job dissatisfaction. The stress of working for a company that fails to respect their employees reflects directly to attendance. Bell has indicated to me on several occasions their concern of their high absenteeism and the fact they have so many employee's off on stress leave. Maybe if they stopped screwing with our schedules and allowed mutually agreed to days off they would find people would not call in sick on days they could not get off legitimately.

Signs of stress include insomnia, lack of appetite, inability to concentrate and irritability with co-workers. If you are experiencing some or all of these signs you should see your doctor. Your job should not make you sick. You do not owe Bell your health.

Take care,
Mike Douse