

# Little rest for Albertans

## Working longest hours in nation

**BILL KAUFMANN**  
Calgary Sun

Boom-driven Albertans are putting in more hours on the job than other Canadians, a Statistics Canada study shows.

While that means fatter paycheques, Albertans are working themselves to the bone, said Gil McGowan, president of the Alberta Federation of Labour.

"It is a question of employers demanding too much from their workers — frankly this is an unsustainable pace," said McGowan, adding workplace deaths and injuries have increased dramatically.

"This is one area Albertans really do not want to

have bragging rights."

The StatsCan report surveyed 19,500 workers and shows the average number of hours worked by Albertans per year in 2004 was 1,880: 36 hours a week.

The national average is about 1,815 hours.

The average hours worked has likely grown given the shortage of labour, said Lorelei Fiset-Cassidy, a provincial spokeswoman.

Labour laws restricting the sequence of hours toiled already address workplace stress, she said, adding the figures are a testament to economic success.

"People have moved from across the country to take advantage of this."

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pace."**

Gil McGowan,  
Alberta union leader