

# LABOUR LAW SEMINAR

## Control Over Working Time: Lessons from Canada

**Professor Judy Fudge**

Time, like pay, provides a standard metric, and both are central elements in every employment relationship. Time and pay are also key sources of conflict between employees and employers; but, unlike conflicts over pay, conflicts over time cannot be resolved by expanding the pie. How time is allocated between different spheres of social activity not only affects the well being of individuals and families, it also influences the level of equality between people in a society. Control over working time is about choice and power.

For these reasons, working time has long been at the heart of political and social debate, as well as the subject of legal regulation. Using the federal regulation of working time in Canada as a case study, Professor Fudge will argue that responsive forms of regulation must be supplemented by mandatory norms enforced by the state in order to achieve working-time arrangements that are healthy, family-friendly, foster gender equality, advance productivity, and facilitate workers' choice and influence over their hours of work.

**Judy Fudge** is Professor and Lansdowne Chair in Law at the University of Victoria, Canada. Professor Fudge is a leading Canadian feminist labour law historian, having co-authored three books, co-edited three collections on feminism and labour law, and written innumerable articles and chapters covering labour law, labour history, pay equity and human rights at work.

**DATE:** Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2008  
**TIME:** 1:00 pm  
**PLACE:** Room G27 (Ground Floor) - Melbourne Law School  
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*A light lunch will be served*