

MGMT 3480 1A Ethical Responsibilities of Organizations  
Individual Writing Assignment #1 - Newspaper Article Scrapbook

YOUR NAME

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DATE

# Stitching together an ethical fashion statement

"To be self-sustaining is a huge part of making the world a little better"

Emily Rendell-Watson

This article discusses sewing and its implications on society and the environment. Beverly Gan, the operator of The House of Sew, believes offering sewing lessons is an effective way to towards understanding the "sustainability and ethics of fashion" (Rendell-Watson, 2019) through education. In her opinion, repairing clothing yourself is an important way to "mak[e] the world better" (Rendell-Watson, 2019). Beyond teaching about the mechanics of sewing, Gan also teaches economic and environmental impacts of fashion in order to help her clients make informed choices about clothing.

Her outlook is very different than the reality of the fashion industry. With ever-changing trends, individuals often buy clothing frequently and discard their older clothing when it goes out of style. Often, clothing is poor quality and made unethically (employing tactics such as child labour) so that it can be sold at a lower price, or to achieve higher profits.

This article connects to Ethical Responsibilities of Organizations because it examines the topics of corporate social responsibility (CSR) and consumer sovereignty. The textbook explains that corporate social responsibility includes being mindful of "economic, social, and environmental responsibilities" when conducting business (Sexty, 2017, p. 5). Gan's business model includes addressing consumer sovereignty by allowing customers to "exercise power over producers through the decisions they make," (Sexty, 2017, p. 32). An example of this would be the ability to mend clothing oneself, rather than paying someone to do it for them, or buying new articles of clothing when old ones become worn or damaged.

This article also touches on personal values, as discussed in Professor Eisan's lecture on September 12. Values influence a person's actions and as the operator of a business, Gee would be passing on her values -- specifically the importance of family, who taught her to sew, and sewing, a skill she considers valuable.

From reading this article, it can be concluded that Gee operates her business with CSR, thinking of the benefit of the environment, her clients, and external stakeholders when managing her business.

# MEC to close its doors across the country as climate strikes hit Canada



UBC business ethics expert says companies 'have to be part of the solution'

CBC News · Posted: Sep 20, 2019 7:38 PM PT | Last Updated: September 20

This article discusses the impact of climate change on society in Canada and companies' reactions to this crisis. While some companies, such as MEC, have made progress to operate their business in a less environmentally damaging way, there is still a lot of work to do.

MEC is an environmentally minded company and is taking the interests of its employees into consideration. This demonstrates corporate citizenship, which is a corporation's ability to consider its role and impact on society, the environment, and the economy, as defined in Robert Sexty's *Canadian Business and Society: Ethics, Responsibilities, & Sustainability* (p.5). Sexty goes on to say that usually government affects a business (p. 12), however, this company is trying to influence the government to make legislative changes, as well as persuade other businesses to change their habits.

They are a leader in their industry: in sustainability and economically speaking as well. If a company can show their commitment to environmentally friendly practices, they may influence more potential customers to switch to buying from them rather than a competitor. This may also positively influence other corporations. If they see a climate aware company being as successful as MEC has been, they may be more likely to change their business practices toward more sustainable procedures.

By allowing staff an opportunity to attend the climate strike, should they wish to attend, promotes employee loyalty. Employees will feel valued if they feel their employer is listening to their needs and they will be more likely to perform better, thus contributing to increased sales, which create higher profits.

MEC is acting as a responsible corporation, responding to the needs of their stakeholders: their staff, the environment, and customers. It is reacting positively to all the potential profit losses due to a closure, thinking about a more widespread benefit to itself and to all of society.

# The Ford government needs to realize the long-term benefits of pay equity

JOSIE RUDDERHAM  
CONTRIBUTED TO THE GLOBE AND MAIL  
PUBLISHED APRIL 17, 2019

3 COMMENTS



## TRENDING

1 B.C. fugitives took credit for three killings in videos they recorded before their deaths, RCMP say

This article discusses the wage gap between male and female employees. The author, the co-owner of a small bakery, argues for the wage equilibrium. She thinks that the discussion should cover non-monetary compensation as well as pay inequities.

In this article, Rudderham points out that the federal government passed a law to enforce those who continue to have differences in pay rates based on gender. However, the premier of Ontario delayed the implementation of the law, arguing that it would be inconvenient or difficult for them to change their current practices to adhere.

There are several ethical issues addressed in this article that relate to Ethical Responsibilities of Organizations. One of the fundamentals of capitalism, the economic system of Canada, is equality of opportunity. According to Robert Sexty, "all individuals or groups have an even chance" (p. 27), which is clearly being violated in this situation. This also leads to work ethic, another fundamental of capitalism. Sexty discusses that individuals with a good work ethic will be rewarded in a capitalist society (p. 31). This cannot be the case if women are receiving less remuneration than men, based solely on their gender. This also raises a point about men and women receiving the same non-monetary compensation, such as parental leave, since in many organizations it is reserved for women only.

Income disparity is a pressing issue because it affects consumer patterns. For example, a woman who is working for a lower wage than a man in the same position may not be able to find affordable housing, (Sexty, 2017, p. 28) and this can create even more economic imbalances, such as food insecurity.

There are also legal issues at play. Since it is a law under the government of Canada, there should be no way that the provincial government can decide to implement the policy or not. Ford could be criminally charged for failing to adhere to a legal regulation. His taxpayers are also acting unethically. They are not abiding by the new law set by the Liberal government and are also failing to adhere to the Canadian Human Right Act (Government of Canada, 2019).

This is a clear example of citizens acting on an ethical issue that is being ignored or condoned by the government. Rudderham is exercising her right to freedom of speech, for "the greater good" (Eisan, 2019).

## **Scheer kicks off election campaign accusing Trudeau of lies, cover-up over SNC-Lavalin scandal**

This article discusses federal Conservative party leader Andrew Sheer's personal beliefs on current Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's moral ability to govern Canada. According to the article, Trudeau acted unethically in relation to the SNC-Lavalin affair. Trudeau is being accused of breaching conflict of interest regulations.

One ethical issue to examine with this article is to determine if a conflict of interest really did occur. Sheer believes it did, and is casting a value judgement, "a subjective evaluation of what is considered important" (Eisan, 26 September 2019). He believes that if Trudeau was moral, he would step down: "we know that the power to waive cabinet confidence and the power to waive privilege rests with the prime minister" (Harris, 2019).

It can be difficult to determine if a conflict of interest did occur. Some factors include limited evidence, personal biases, and moral standards. Every individual holds themselves to a different moral standard, that is "the means by which individuals judge their actions and the actions of others, based on accepted behaviours in society" (Eisan, 26 September 2019).

Another challenge with this situation is determining if the "bad people" myth is true. According to Sexty, some people believe that "unethical behaviour is simply the result of bad apples" (p. 101). This could be problematic since there have been ethical concern allegations launched against Sheer himself. Perhaps he is scapegoating Trudeau to avoid the criticisms directed towards him. This could be a degree of rationalization being used by Sheer. It could be construed as advantageous comparison, making oneself or someone else believe that what they did is "nothing compared to [what someone else has done]" (Eisan, 26 September 2019).

Andrew Sheer believes that the Prime Minister has acted unethically and is trying to influence Trudeau's choices to waive cabinet confidence from himself. This is an ethical issue when considering both Justin Trudeau and Andrew Sheer's positions.

# UBC Sauder students focused on achieving the highest standards for ethical and effective business practices

CONTENT FROM: TOP CANADIAN UNIVERSITIES

PUBLISHED JUNE 25, 2019

STORIES FROM THE NEWSROOM

TRENDING

This article focuses on the standards the University of British Columbia's (UBC) Sauder School of Business infringes on its students. It is currently ranked as number three in the world for "delivering the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals" (Top Canadian Universities, 2019).

Their school encourages students to act on issues surrounding the triple-P bottom line, "an evaluation of a corporation's performance according to people, planet, and profits" (Sexty, 2017, p. 5).

The school is trying to instill values in their students, to make them better students and better global citizens. Values are a core concept of operating a business properly in society (Sexty, p. 147). These values include globalization. Globalization is an important part of business and has many benefits, but also has challenges that are unique to each local area (Sexty, 2019, p. 12). These university students are forced to examine issues from all around the world, since they live in an area that sees many tourists, businesspeople, and immigrants, from various countries.

With 56% of business students admitting to having cheated (Eisan, 12 September 2019), academic integrity is not always important to students. UBC is working towards encouraging students to get involved in their school community, thus decreasing academic dishonesty and increasing positive, ethical actions by students. Encouraging students to behave ethically can be a challenge but UBC has found that "this kind of impact happens only when ethics and social responsibility are incorporated into every aspect of education," (Top Canadian Universities, 2019).

Teaching content such as what is presented in MGMT 3480: Ethical Responsibilities in Organizations is extremely important in contributing to an ethical society. When business students are faced with many important ethical issues in the classroom, they are more apt to handle them appropriately when working or studying.

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