

Ethics News – March 1, 2019

A recent roundup of commentary on ethical issues currently affecting organizations.

"Microsoft workers' letter demands company drop Army HoloLens contract". Here's yet another interesting piece in what seems to be a trend: tech workers objecting on ethical grounds to the work their company does.

Access the article here: <https://www.theverge.com/2019/2/22/18236116/microsoft-hololens-army-contract-workers-letter>

"Jeffrey Skilling, Former Enron Chief, Released After 12 Years in Prison". After serving 12 years of a 24-year sentence, one of the most infamous names in the history of business ethics is back on the street.

Access the article here: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/02/22/business/enron-ceo-skilling-scandal.html>

"Uber Gender Earnings Gap: Discrimination or Not?" This commentary (at BusinessEthicsHighlights.com) is about an academic study showing that women who drive for Uber earn 7% less, on average. Analysis shows several reasons, none of them having to do with discrimination. The question: what, if anything, to do about it.

Access the commentary here: <https://businessethicshighlights.com/2019/02/21/uber-gender-earnings-gap-discrimination-or-not/>

"Climate change: 'Right to repair' gathers force". This story pits environmental concerns against intellectual property rights. Should it be easier for consumers to fix appliances, even if that means manufacturers have to give up control?

Access the commentary here: <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-46797396>

"Winning consumer trust is the cornerstone of successful businesses today. Research shows that trust is a critical driver of loyalty. Trusted organizations are also more than two and a half times more likely to be high performing revenue organizations than low-trust companies (Harvard Business Review, 2016)".

On January 29, 2019, the Ethics Centre hosted a panel discussion on the relationship between ethics, corporate culture and trust. The event was moderated by Kenneth Fredeen, General Counsel, Deloitte LLP, and featured remarks from Jay McMahan, Partner, Deloitte LLP; Lisa Kimmel, President & CEO, Edelman Canada; Melissa Kennedy, Executive Vice President, Chief Legal Officer & Public Affairs, Sun Life Financial and Simon Fish, General Counsel, BMO Financial Group

The panelists discussed the current climate within which businesses operate, and cultural factors that give rise to unintended consequences such as a breakdown of trust. The conversation also focused on what companies are doing to manage this.



ETHICS CENTRE is a uniquely Canadian, independent body, dedicated to promoting and maintaining an ethical orientation and culture in Canadian organizations. We champion the application of ethical values in the decision-making processes of business and other organizations.

We welcome your comments, suggestions and ideas – please contact Lois Marsh at lmars@ethicscentre.ca

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