

**CITY REGION**

# Unemployment clock counts lost jobs: one every 35 seconds

Tick, tick, tick — every 34.9 seconds, the National Unemployment Clock adds one more person to its 1,625,861 count of people who have lost a job in Canada.

On Friday afternoon, a big, black customized Ford van/truck pulled up in front of the Kami Inn on Victoria Street. David Rowswell, a marketer for [www.keep-jobsincanada.ca](http://www.keep-jobsincanada.ca), got out his clipboard and started collecting signatures.

The red LCD clock on the side of the vehicle kept ticking.

The back of Rowswell's vehicle asked the question that's the focus of the campaign. "If you're proud to be Canadian, shouldn't you be proud to hire Canadian?"

He had buttons and stickers to hand out and help make that point.

Sponsored by the Telecommunications Workers Union, the National Unemployment Clock has driven from Montreal to Kamloops and is about to head to Vancouver. There, the clock will be removed from its wheels and put up on a billboard, Rowswell said.

The union is backing the cam-

paign because it represents workers whose jobs are being slashed as employers hire call centre workers in other countries.

Telus, for example, has cut 1,500 jobs across Canada and has created 7,000 positions in the Philippines, he said.

The clock's figures are based on information from Statistics Canada, he said.

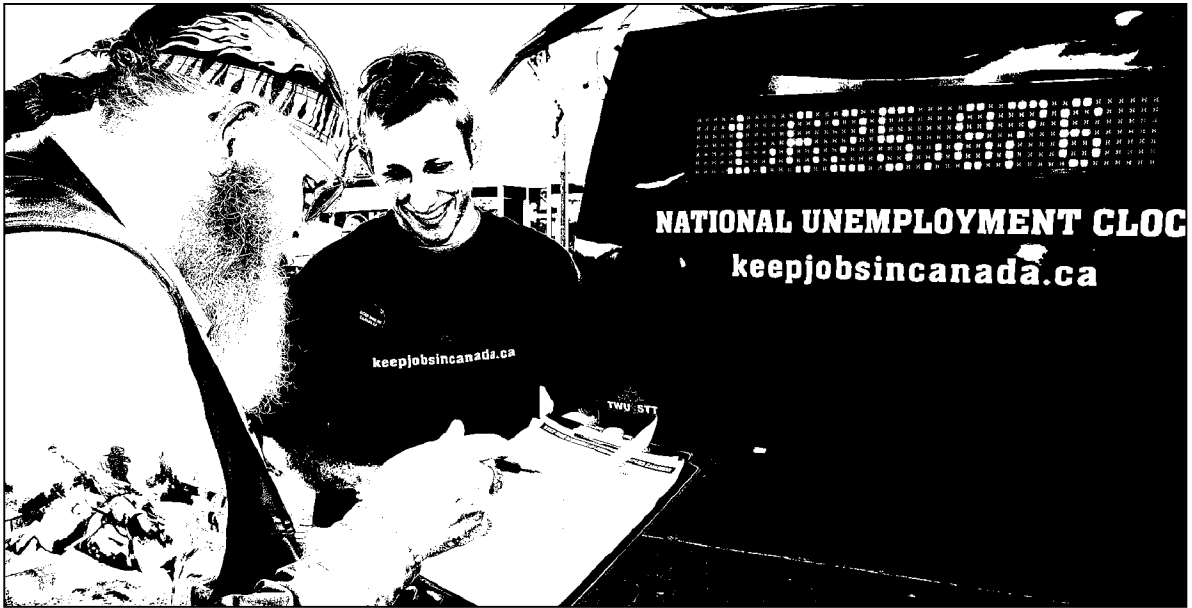
The petitions — there's another online that anyone can sign — will be collected and sent to Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Labour Minister Rona Ambrose in Ottawa after June 10.

While driving a set of wheels across the country seems like a low-tech approach to a national campaign, there are a lot of high-tech accessories that are helping spread the message.

Rowswell said in addition to the website, he's posting on Twitter throughout the day. And he's taking pictures to put up on Flickr.

"We're getting a lot of attention," he said.





**GRANT RAMBO** of Kamloops signs a petition presented by David Rowswell of *keepjobsincanada.ca*.

MURRAY MITCHELL/THE DAILY NEWS  
The van with a national unemployment clock was parked on Victoria Street Friday afternoon.