

# Dalhousie University Environmental Health & Safety Committee

## VDT SURVEY

VDT's, or video display terminals, are television-like screens which are used to display information from wordprocessors (MICOM's, for example), computer terminals, microcomputers, typesetters and other related equipment. VDT's are appearing in ever increasing numbers in our workplace. At the same time complaints of headaches, burning eyes and backaches by VDT-users are increasing.

While a solution to these complaints may be found in the correct set-up of the workplace environment it is not known how widespread these problems are nor even how many VDT's are on campus.

Negotiations between the Dalhousie Staff Association and the University administration resulted in an agreement to determine the problems that might exist with VDT use and to attempt to find solutions to these problems. The University Environmental Safety Committee has been given the task of surveying the campus, interpreting the results of this survey and then proposing solutions.

Below is the survey which will help us see how many VDT's there are and how great are the problems associated with them.

Your cooperation is appreciated.

Please answer the following questions and place in boxes located at major distribution points of the Gazette (ie. SUB, the Grawood, A&A building, etc.) or return to the DSA Office, Room 111, Old Art College Bldg. Thank you.

1. Do you operate a VDT? 1. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ 2. No \_\_\_\_\_  
Location \_\_\_\_\_

Type. 1 terminal, 2 microcomputer,  
3 wordprocessor, 4 typesetter, 5 other \_\_\_\_\_

Manufacturer \_\_\_\_\_ Model \_\_\_\_\_

2. If you do operate a VDT, how many hours per week on the average do you spend on it? 1 less than 1 hr. 2 1-16hr. 3 More than 16 hr.

3. How long have you operated it? 1 Less than 6 months. 2 6-12 months 3 More than 1 year.

4. Are there any other VDT's in your work area?  
1 YES \_\_\_\_\_ 2 NO \_\_\_\_\_

5. Are you satisfied that the VDT(s) in your area is/are set up properly? 1 YES \_\_\_\_\_ 2 NO \_\_\_\_\_ If no, what problems are there?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Do you now have any regularly scheduled breaks?  
1 YES \_\_\_\_\_ 2 NO \_\_\_\_\_  
If yes, how often?  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Do you have any worries about the VDT(s) in your workplace? 1 YES \_\_\_\_\_ 2 NO \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, please describe:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. Are there plans to acquire a VDT for your area?  
1 YES \_\_\_\_\_ 2 NO \_\_\_\_\_  
If so, how many? 1 One only. 2 More than 1.  
When? 1 Within 6 months. 2 6-12 months. 3 More than 12 months from now.

9. Do you foresee a need for a VDT in your area, even though no plans exist to buy one at the moment?  
1 YES \_\_\_\_\_ 2 NO \_\_\_\_\_  
Any other comments  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(Optional)  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Department \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Please direct questions to:

Your safety rep., Sheilagh O'Driscoll  
or  
Director of Safety. Phone 2171