

OFFICE STRETCHING SERIES



CHÉO

Research Institute
Healthy Active Living and Obesity Research

Institut de recherche
Recherche sur les saines habitudes de vie et l'obésité

- 1. Touch the Sky.** Reach your arms up to the sky and as far back as you can safely go. You can try grasping like you're trying to reach the stars.
- 2. Side Stretch.** While standing reach your one arm over head and to the opposite side. You can keep the other hand on your hip or in the air.
- 3. Touch Your Toes.** Take off your shoes if you can. Wiggle your toes. Now bend at the hip and reach for your toes. Bending your knees is OK.
- 4. Shoulder Opener.** Lean your palms against the wall above your head and bending at the hip to stretch out your shoulders and back.
- 5. Twirl 'Em.** Make circles with your wrists and ankles. Rotate in both **directions**. Also with each hand alternate making fists and opening your hand wide. Do this back and forth a few times. If you work at a keyboard, you'll be love how this feels!
- 6. Loosen Your Neck.** Go slow and gentle with neck stretching. Slowly stretch forward and back, side to side, round in circles, and twist to look over each shoulder. Remember slow and gentle. Only do what feels good.
- 7. Arm Stretch.** Straighten one arm out in front of you. Now with the other arm pull the straight arm toward your opposite shoulder. Go slowly. If you use a **computer** mouse a lot during the day, this should feel really good. Keep your hands open wide to make this even better.
- 8. Arm Circles.** While standing rotate each arm around in big circles both forward and backward. Do one arm at a time. Do this slowly.
- 9. Seated Twist.** First sit up straight. Twist in your **chair** keeping your hips stationary. Twist all the way from lower back all the way up to your head looking over your shoulder.
- 10. Quad Stretch and Balance.** Stand on one leg and stretch out your quadriceps muscle by bending your knee and pulling your foot to your buttocks. If you'd like to advance this a bit, bend at the hip to touch your toes while doing this.
- 11. Hip Opener.** Sitting in your chair cross one leg over the other so that ankle rests just above the knee. While doing this lean forward to feel a nice stretch in your hip and buttocks. Over time this one exercise can help with lower back problems and sciatica. It's pretty amazing. Repeat with the other leg.
- 12. Seated Back Bend.** Sitting in your chair you can do this a few different ways. Each of these will give a nice stretch to your stomach and chest muscles:
 - Sitting on the edge of your chair with arms in the air, simply reach up and back.
 - Sitting on the edge, clasp your hands behind your back with arms pointing down. Roll your shoulders in towards each other in the back and lean your head back.
 - If you have a lean back chair. lift your arms in the air and lean back for a nice stretch.

