

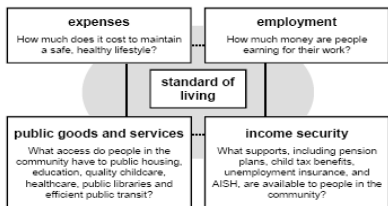
Alberta's Minimum Wage Review

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Public Interest Alberta
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Overview

- All Albertans should be able to earn a living that provides for a safe and healthy quality of life
- Minimum wage policy is an important tool to increase the quality of life for low-income Albertans
- Without a comprehensive approach we will pay one way or the other

Factors that determine quality of life



Minimum VS Living Wage

- LICO After tax very close to MBM
- LICO After Tax in Alberta
- Single person full time = / hour
- Single parent = \$/hour

Low Wages In Alberta

- Statistics Canada data showing the average hourly wage distribution for Alberta and major metropolitan areas for April 2009 – March 2010. There were 1,630,500 people employed in Alberta during this time period.

There are many employed Albertans Earning low-wages

- There were 112,200 people earning less than \$10/hour (6.9%)
- There were 223,600 people earning less than \$12/ hour (13.7%)
- There were 413,700 people earning less than \$15/hour (25.4%)

Low Wages In Alberta

It is not just young people living with their parent who are earning low-wages


Employed people earning less than \$10/hour:

- 42.9% are under the age of 20
- 17.2% are between the ages of 20 – 24
- 25.5% are between the ages of 25 – 45
- 17.0% are older than 45

Low Wages In Alberta

Low wages impact women more than men

- 38% of people earning less than \$10/hour are men and 62 % are women



- The low wage gender gap increases with age. 75% of people over 45 years of age earning less than \$10/hour are women

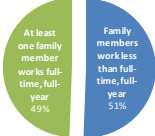
Low Wages In Alberta

Some cities have a higher percentage of their work force earning low wages

- 6.9% of employed Albertans make under \$10/hour
- 38,900 (7.35%) people from Edmontonians earn less than \$10/hour
- 32,200 (5.52%) people from Calgary earn less than \$10/hour
- 3400 (8.46%) people from Red Deer earn less than \$10/hour
- 3000 (9.12 %) people from Lethbridge earn less than \$10/hour
- 7500 (7.2%) people from Athabasca, Grand Prairie, Peace River
- 3300 (5.48%) people from Wood Buffalo earn less than \$10/hour

Minimum Wage Policy

Children Living Below MBM, by Work Activity of Family, Alberta



- In 2007, at the height of the economic boom, 59,000 children in Alberta (over one in 12) lived below the LICO (After Tax).
- 80% of these children lived in a family where at least one parent worked, and close to 50% lived in a family where at least one person worked full time, full year.

Minimum Wage Policy

Transfer to work

Minimum Wage Policy

Government supports

- Childcare subsidy
- CCTB + supplement
- Post-secondary education
- Pensions

Minimum Wage Policy

Economic Growth

- Level playing field
- Local spending
- No job loss with predictable and consistent increases – study reference

Poverty Reduction Strategies

- 6 Provinces have strategies
- Example - Newfoundland and Labrador
- Increase from to \$10/hour
