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CANADIAN CENTRE
for POLICY ALTERNATIVES
ONTARIO OFFICE



Ontario Living Wage Network

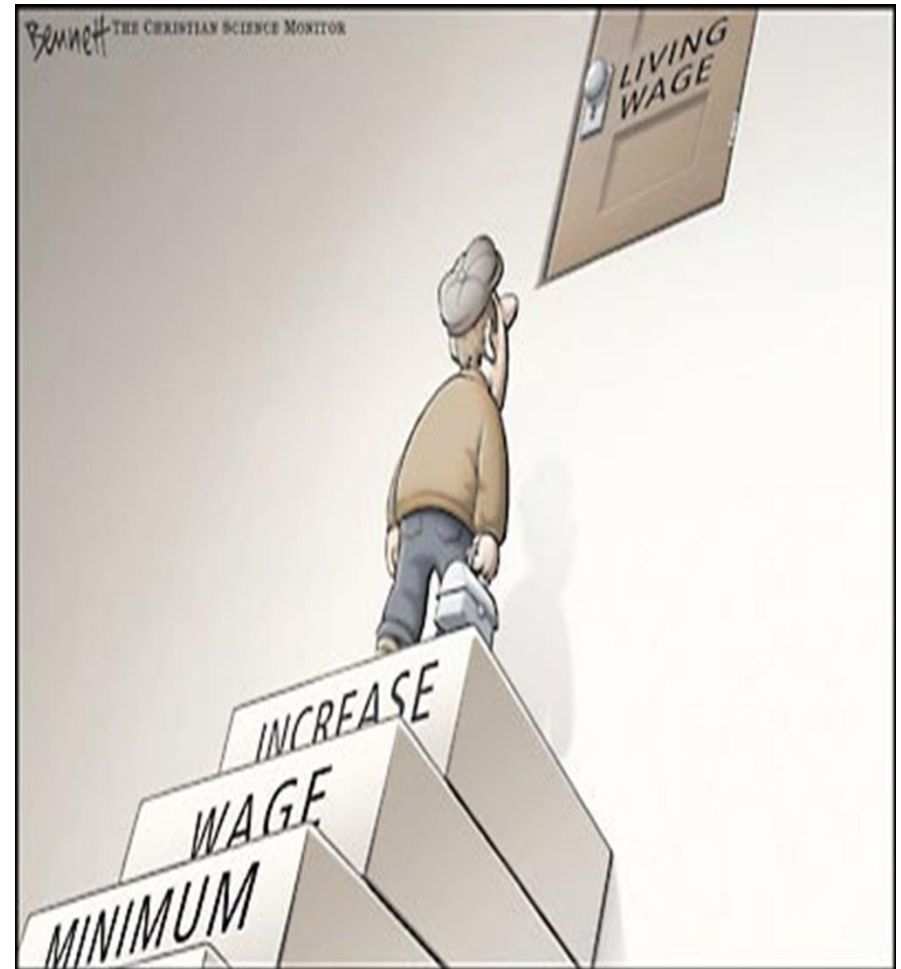
#LivingWage /
@tomcoopster



WORKING POVERTY: IT DOESN'T ADD UP!

1.8 million workers
amongst working
poor in Canada

Minimum wage
arbitrary, politically
driven – does not
meet cost of living



“Work should be a route out of poverty”

WHAT IS A LIVING WAGE?

A living wage is a level of pay that enables someone working full-time to earn enough to meet basic needs and participate fully in community

Living Wage rates differ from community to community



BENEFITS OF LIVING WAGES TO EMPLOYEES

Receive fair compensation

Raised out of poverty

Better quality of life and improved health

Education/Skills training



BENEFITS OF LIVING WAGES TO EMPLOYERS

- **Reduced absenteeism and decreased turnover**
- **Increased morale, loyalty and productivity**
- **More attractive jobs for job seekers**
- **Recognition for responsible employers**



COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Greater consumer purchasing power

Increased local spending- job creation

Increased civic participation



IN LONDON, UK – 1400 LIVING WAGE EMPLOYERS



NEW YORK CITY



LIVING WAGE CANADA



IS YOUR COMMUNITY A LIVING WAGE COMMUNITY?

Communities across Canada are responding to the increasingly high levels of low-wage workers living in poverty. Families and individuals should earn an income sufficient to pay for the basic necessities of life, so they can live with dignity and participate as active citizens in our society.

The living wage is a call to private and public sector employers to pay wages that are sufficient to provide for basic needs of families. This map shows these communities across Canada that are currently working on living wage campaigns.

For more information, visit livingwagecanada.ca



LIVING WAGE IN ONTARIO



38 Employers in Ontario have signed Living Wage declarations – including 2 Chambers of Commerce

“The Best Way to Reduce Child Poverty is to pay parents & caregivers a Living Wage” – HWDSB Vice Chair, Alex Johnstone



“

No business which depends for existence on paying less than living wages to its workers has any right to continue in this country.

By living wages I mean more than a bare subsistence level –
I mean the wages of decent living.

”

– FDR



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