

Front commun pour la justice sociale- N.-B. 236 rue St George, pièce 412 Moncton, NB, E1C 1W1	NB Common Front for Social Justice 236 St George St., Suite 412 Moncton, NB E1C 1W1
--	--

News release

September 31 2018

Moncton – Is Labour Day a cause for celebration for workers? Yes and no!

According to Pauline Gallant, spokesperson for the Common Front for Social Justice, “The province has been greatly affected by the world financial crisis of 2008, and has not recovered since. Between 2008 and 2017, the province’s total job numbers have continually deteriorated (excluding the self-employed persons). In 2008 there were 318,400 employees and ten years later, there were 312,400 employees, so a loss of 6,000 employees during this period.” (Table 1)

The number of employees earning minimum wage increased by 6,800 in ten years. Those earning between minimum wage and \$15 per hour has been in a free fall. By the end of the decade, we can see that there were 61,700 less employees in this category.. However, during the same decade, the number of employees earning \$15 per hour or more has increased each year, from 164,900 (2008) to 213,800 (2017), a total of 48,900 more employees, which is very positive. (Table 2)

Minimum wage has increased from \$7.75 (2008) to \$11.00 (2017). The salary gap between minimum wage and a \$15 per hour salary has shrunk, but the gap between minimum wage and median wage has not improved, going from \$7.75 (2008) to \$8.15 (2017). (Table 3)

According to Ms. Gallant, “The Liberal Party’s announcement to increase minimum wage to \$14 per hour in four years, the NDP’s \$15 per hour and the Green Party’s \$15.25 per hour are all indications that finally, political parties recognize the importance of increasing minimum wage. We are still waiting for the Progressive Conservative Party’s and the People’s Alliance of New Brunswick Party’s positions on the matter.”

“During the same decade, women lost fewer jobs than men did. As for jobs paying \$15 or more, they also had a more significant increase (+40%) than men (+21%),” says Ms. Gallant. (Tables 4 and 5)

What has not changed during this decade is the percentage of full-time (85%) and part-time (15%) employees. Furthermore, the number of unionized and non-unionized employees has remained at around 29% and 71% respectively.

It is often argued that minimum wage employees consist of youth aged 15 to 19 years who live at home, in which case the minimum wage doesn't need to be increased. Our research shows that in 2008, the percentage of youth between 15 and 19 years earning this salary was 52%, and ten years later, it was 37%; so, they are less present in this salary category. (Table 8)

Ms. Gallant concludes, "There are positive elements that happened in the last 10 years, but there is still a lot to do, especially in the areas of job creation, increasing minimum wage, and updating employment standards. This is why the Common Front for Social Justice has met with all political parties and put forward concrete proposals, concerning minimum wage as well as employment standards, so that workers may have better living standards. We shall see if our message was heard, as political parties present their electoral platforms."

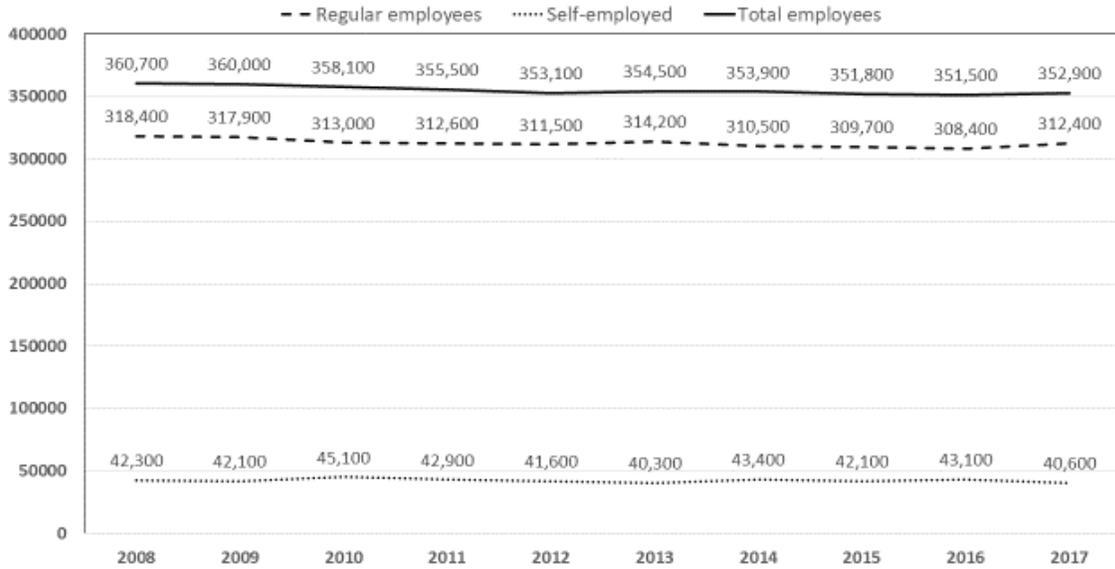
For information

Pauline Gallant, co-chair-227-7175

Jean-Claude Basque, Provincial coordinator-875-1310

The Tables are in the attachment

Table 1. Employment by class of worker, annual



Source : Statistics Canada, Cansim 14-10-0027-01

Table 2. Workers in New-Brunswick (2008-2017)



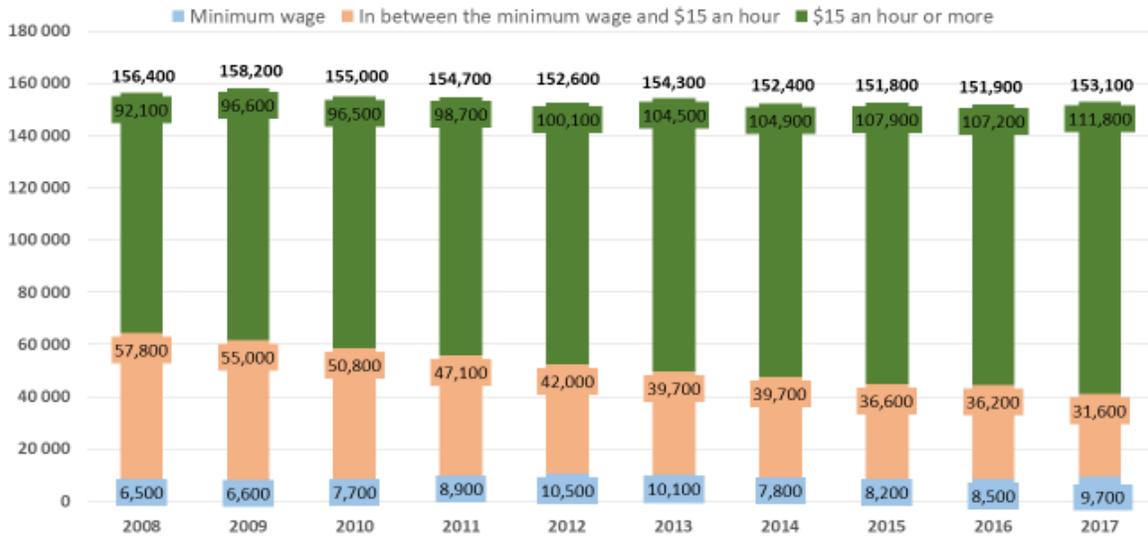
Source: Special Statistics from Statistics Canada and the Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labor

Tableau 3. Hourly Wage in New-Brunswick (2008-2017)



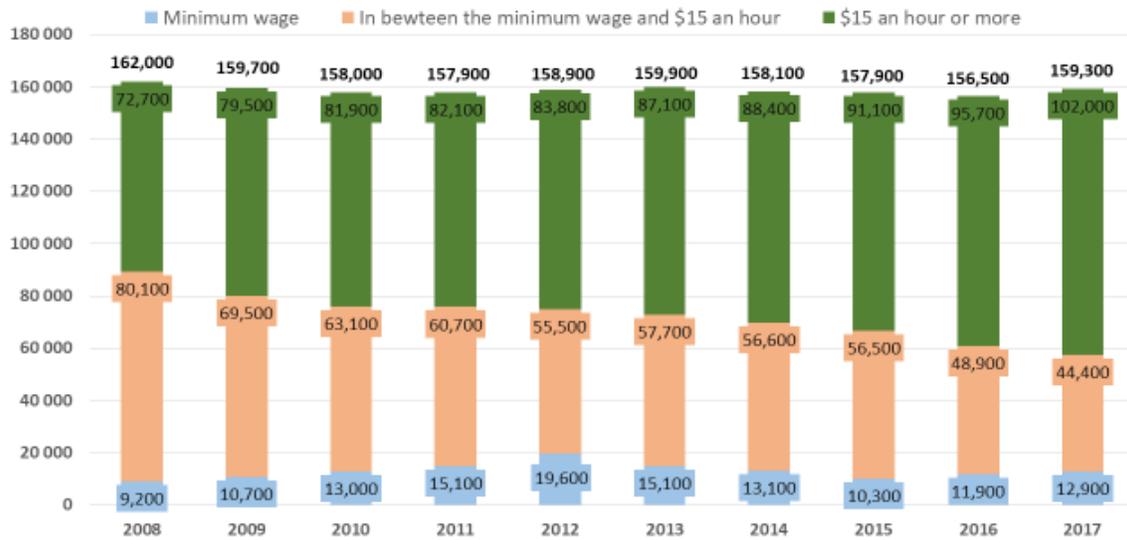
Source : Statistics Canada Cansim 14-10-0064-01

Table 4. Male workers in New-Brunswick (2008-2017)



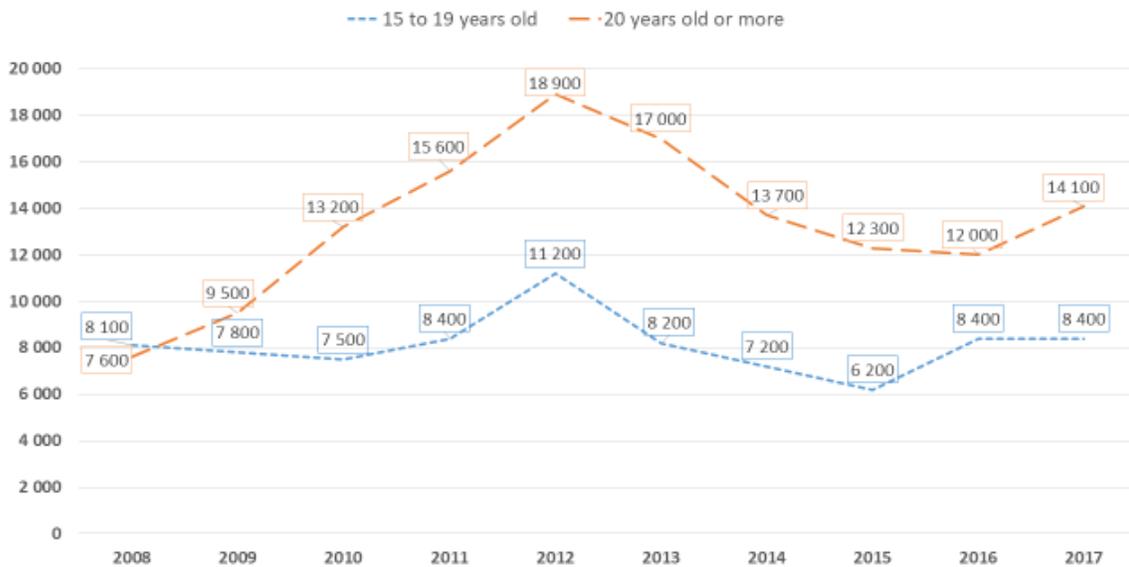
Source : Special Statistics from Statistics Canada and the Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labor

Table 5. Female workers in New-Brunswick (2008-2017)



Source: Special Statistics from Statistics Canada and the Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labor

Tableau 8. Employees on Minimum Wage in New-Brunswick (2008-2017)



Source: Requested data from Statistics Canada and the Postsecondary Education Minister

