



News Release

March 31, 2016

Minimum Wage Increase : The bare minimum for workers

“The minimum wage increase of \$0.35 an hour starting tomorrow is a bare minimum for the thousands of workers who make minimum wage in our province”, says Pauline Richard, Co-Chair of the Common Front for Social Justice.

The New Brunswick minimum wage at \$10.65 an hour will get our province from the bottom to the third lowest in all of Canada. The gross annual salary will be \$22,152, a \$728 increase per year. This salary is over the poverty line for single individuals but not for single parent families or couples with children.

Minimum Wages by provinces- 2016 (\$)

BC	AB	Sask	MB	ON	Qc	NB	NS	PEI	NFLD
10.45	11.20	10.50	11.00	11.25	10,75 May 2016	10.65	10.70	10.75. June 2016	10.50
		Oct. 2016 Increase to CPI		11.40 Oct 2016				11.00 Oct. 2016	

<http://srv116.services.qc.ca/dimt-wid/sm-mw/rpt1.aspx?lang=eng>

For Pauline Richard: “What is missing from this announcement is the upcoming minimum wage increases. If we are serious about reducing poverty, we need to plan steady minimum wage increases up to \$15.00 an hour and index it to the cost of living.”

“As our study has showed, individuals and families earning minimum wages are not able to meet their basic budgetary needs. Out of the seven scenarios we have studied, all of them had a deficit at the end of the year”, continues Chantal Landry, Provincial Secretary.

Table 1: Net Annual Income, Total Annual Expenses and Deficits - 2015 (\$)

Year 2015	Single Individual	Single Parent Family+ 1 child	Single Parent Family+ 2 children	Couple 1 child 1 income	Couple 1 child 2 incomes	Couple 2 children 1 income	Couple 2 children 2 incomes
Net Annual Income	18,978	27,284	31,825	26,094	39,579	31,630	43,127
Annual Expenses	23,489	32,570	41,124	37,981	41,080	44,291	53,210
Deficit	-4 511	-5 286	-9,299	-11,887	-1,501	-12,661	-10,083

Source: NB Common Front for Social Justice. An Economic Reality: Living on Minimum Wage.

“Minimum wage increases have to also be coupled with changes to labour standards. If we want to keep workers in the workforce or encourage others, especially women, to join, we have to modernize our labour standards to reflect the changing nature of society. Workers need paid sick days, overtime paid at their real wage and not at minimum wage, company uniforms that are required should be paid by the employer, and this just to name a few of the changes that are needed”, concludes Chantal Landry

For information

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The Common Front for Social Justice is one of the largest democratic and popular organizations in New Brunswick, with close to 75,000 group and individual members. The Common Front brings together individuals as well as local, regional and provincial organizations to work towards the eradication of poverty.