

Demand an increase in the minimum wage

June 1, 2013

As part of a coalition of community, labour and faith groups from across Ontario, we support an immediate increase in the minimum wage to \$14.

We need a raise in the minimum wage to \$14 an hour now because:

- A strong minimum wage will help workers, will help our communities and will boost our economy.
- Working full-time should raise us above the poverty line. Working 35 hours a week, we need \$14 an hour to get 10% above the poverty line (LIM) in 2013.
- The minimum wage has been frozen for 3 years while rent, food and transit costs have soared! It's time to melt the freeze, and then index the minimum wage to the cost of living each year.

If the Minister of Labour creates an advisory panel to study the minimum wage:

- It will be a deliberate strategy to have a minimum wage rate set below the poverty line while trying to avoid responsibility for that decision
- It will be a way to distance the government from a decision to keep minimum wage workers in poverty
- It will be a waste of time and taxpayer's money

Other provinces that have advisory panels on minimum wage:

- Have set the minimum wage at an average level of 21% below the poverty line

What you can do:

- Send an email to Kathleen Wynne – or a letter from your organization supporting our call for an increase and no panel
- Submit a letter to your local paper on why your community needs a raise now
- Join the Campaign to Raise the Minimum Wage on Facebook to get regular updates