

THE LIVING WAGE

in Yellowknife is
\$20.68 an hour

In 2015, there were 1,700 people in Yellowknife that earned less than \$20 an hour - most made less than \$16 an hour.

They did not have enough money to cover their basic expenses including shelter, food and clothing without taking second, even third jobs.

A living wage offers a permanent solution for a significant segment of people who live in poverty. However, it is not the only solution to poverty. Family and other social supports are still needed, especially for youth.



A LIVING WAGE



Promoting a Living Wage:

- Carrot versus stick approach
- Voluntary Program
- Striving for higher standards for working poor
- Community recognition of responsible employers
- People will decide if it is important to them
- Part of reducing poverty, not the whole solution

Are you a living wage employer or interested in becoming one? Contact Alternatives North!



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YELLOWKNIFE LIVING WAGE CAMPAIGN

Food	\$ 775
Clothing & Footwear	\$ 195
Shelter	\$ 1,490
Transportation	\$ 486
Child Care	\$ 1,242
MSP Premiums	\$ 138.50
Non-MSP Health Care	\$ 136
Parents' Education	\$ 89
Contingency Fund	\$ 235
Other	\$ 731

“Work should lift you out of poverty, not keep you there”

Living Wage Campaign, BC



BENEFITS OF A LIVING WAGE

A living wage provides a permanent solution to poverty for a large group of people. Aside from workers, the living wage is of benefit to people, families, employers and society at large. It shows employers care for their workers and for the community.

A living wage relieves families of the stress of meeting basic expenses or dealing with emergencies we can all face. It also allows families to access social and recreational activities most of us take for granted.

Workers earning a living wage have more money in their pocket to spend locally. They contribute more to the tax base which benefits the entire community. Staff retention and work-place productivity is increased and recruitment and training costs are reduced for employers.

EMPLOYER RECOGNITION PROGRAM

A living wage is voluntary. It is different than the minimum wage, the amount that government law says employers HAVE to pay. "The living wage sets a higher test - a living wage reflects what earners in a family need to bring home, based on the actual costs of living in a specific community." (Canadian Living Wage Framework) There are three levels of recognition for employers committed to paying a living wage.

----- FRIEND

We commit to determine how many of our employees are earning a living wage and to begin the process of paying all employees, including post-secondary students, a living wage as soon as able.

----- RISING STAR

All our full-time employees earn a living wage. We commit to begin the process of paying part-time employees, including post-secondary students AND contract workers, a living wage.

----- CHAMPION

All full-time and part-time employees, including post-secondary students, earn a living wage. Our contract workers earn a living wage. We commit to championing the living wage within our sector/industry and within the community.

✓ NWT Native Women's Association

- ✓ Status of Women Council of the NWT
- ✓ Ecology North
- ✓ Dene Nahjo
- ✓ NWT Seniors Society
- ✓ Institute of Circumpolar Health Research
- ✓ YK1 Education
- ✓ YWCA
- ✓ NWT Literacy Council
- ✓ Northern Territories Federation of Labour
- ✓ YK Farmers Market
- ✓ France Benoit.