

2022

NWT LIVING WAGE

Inuvik • Hay River • Fort Smith •
Yellowknife

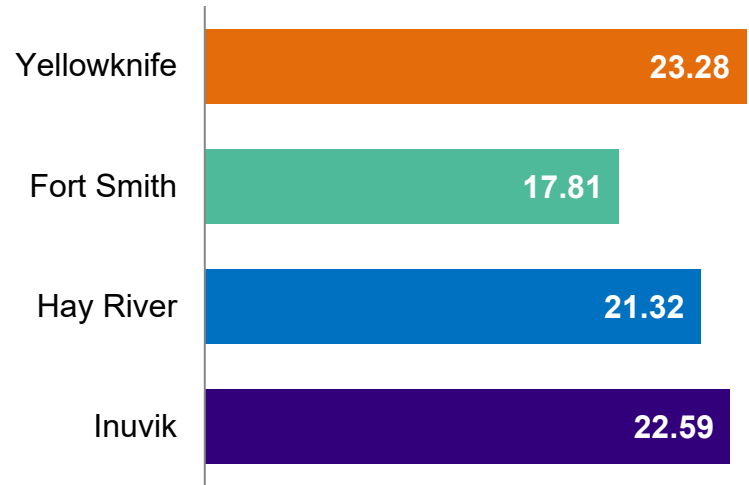
Living Wage is based on a bare-bones budget without the extras many of us take for granted. The budget includes food, clothing, rent, transportation, child care, health care, adult education, some household expenses, and a small emergency fund. Since 2019, a 37.5-hour work week has been assumed for NWT living wage calculations.

For a 2 parent, 2 child household, 2022 NWT Living Wage rates were estimated as:

- \$22.59 in Inuvik;
- \$21.32 in Hay River;
- \$17.81 in Fort Smith; and
- \$23.28 in Yellowknife.

It is important to highlight that the Inuvik and Fort Smith estimate is based on an Indigenous family (the most common household demographic) that has access to child care and health benefit programs that non-indigenous families cannot access.

Below are the 2022 Living Wage rates for a family of 2 parents and 2 children when both parents work full time (37.5 hours per week).



What is Living Wage?

The hourly earnings required to cover basic expenses based on the actual costs of living in a specific community.

What are the benefits?

Individuals & Families

- ✓ Fewer Living in Poverty
- ✓ Fairer Compensation
- ✓ Better Health
- ✓ Better Quality of Life

Community

- ✓ Better Understanding of Local Living Costs
- ✓ More Civic Participation
- ✓ More Spending in the Local Economy

Employers/Business

- ✓ Better Labour Productivity
- ✓ Less Employee Turnover
- ✓ Less Absenteeism
- ✓ Better Customer Loyalty
- ✓ Better Corporate Image



How were the NWT's Living Wage rates calculated?

The *Canadian Living Wage Framework* (CLWF) developed by Vibrant Communities Canada was used as a guide for the NWT 2022 Living Wage calculations.

Calculation Method - Living Wage is the hourly wage rate that allows this formula to balance:

$$\text{Annual Expenses} = \text{Before-Tax Employment Income} + \text{Income from Government Transfers} - \text{Taxes}$$

Annual Family Expenses

Budget Exclusions

- * Special dietary needs
- * Hobbies
- * Owning a home
- * Pet ownership
- * Credit card, loan or other debt/interest payments
- * Parking
- * Savings for retirement
- * Alcohol or tobacco costs
- * RRSP, RESP, or RDSP contributions
- * Personal life or disability insurance
- * Costs of caring for a disabled, seriously ill, or elderly family member
- * Financial help to family members

Annual Expenses

This chart shows the annual expenses used in the 2022 calculation.

