



Premier Paul Quassa
Office of the Premier
Government of Nunavut
P.O. Box 2410
Iqaluit, NU
X0A 0H0

Dear Premier Quassa,

We are writing to you today to request that your government look at increasing the legal minimum wage to a Living Wage for Northerners.

Currently, the minimum wages in Nunavut is well below what low-income workers need to cover the cost of living. The Living Wage, or what it costs for an average worker to cover the cost of basic amenities, is estimated to be more than \$20 per hour in most areas of Nunavut. Given that numerous jurisdictions in Canada (including Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia) and the United States are planning to raise the minimum wage to \$15 /hr. over the coming months, we are seeking your support in adjustments that will help “Make Poverty History.”

As MLAs take their seats, we will be launching a new campaign called: “Living Wage North”. The campaign will aim to push members of the public, MLAs, and the business community toward supporting a minimum wage that meets a Living Wage in Nunavut.

While we commend the many employers who already provide their workers above the minimum wage, we feel that everyone who works regular weekly hours should receive a fair and predictable paycheque.

Plenty of evidence suggests that when working people are well compensated, it not only improves their job security, but puts more money into the hands of customers who then spend it in the local economy. We also feel that an increase will help keep Nunavut a competitive and attractive place to live and work in Canada.

Because the costs for basic amenities are very high in Nunavut compared to the rest of the country, we are asking that hourly rates remain among the highest rates in the country. As such we also asking that in future years, rates are tacked onto the Consumer Price Index so that low-income wage earners can stay above the poverty line.

We very much look forward to working with you to ensure workers are paid fairly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jack Bourassa', written in a cursive style.

Jack Bourassa, REVP
Public Service Alliance of Canada North

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Bill Fennell', written in a cursive style.

Bill Fennell, President
Nunavut Employees Union

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'David Bob', written in a cursive style.

David Bob, President
Northern Territories Federation of Labour