



Premier Robert R. McLeod
Government of the Northwest Territories
P.O. Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2L9

Dear Premier McLeod,

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

The recently announced \$13.46 per hour minimum wages in the Northwest Territories is well below what low-income workers need to cover the cost of living. According to a recent report by Alternatives North, for a person to be able to cover basic amenities, they would have to be paid \$22.68 per hour in Yellowknife. A Living Wage in areas outside the capital can only be expected to be even higher.

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 this year, 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 the calculated Living Wage for each territory.

While we commend the many employers who already provide their workers a living 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 the North a competitive and an attractive place to live and work in Canada.

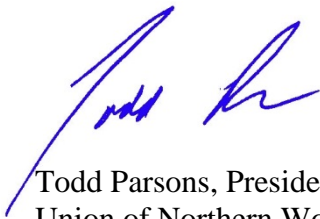
Because the costs for basic amenities are very high in the North compared to the rest of the country, we are asking that hourly rates remain among the highest rates in the country in the future. As such we are asking that Living Wage changes in coming years are adjusted according to the Consumer Price Index so that low-income wage earners can stay above the poverty line.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jack Bourassa', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jack Bourassa, REVP North
Public Service Alliance of Canada North

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Todd Parsons', with a long diagonal stroke extending downwards and to the left.

Todd Parsons, President
Union of Northern Workers

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Bob', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

David Bob, President
Northern Territories Federation of Labour