



Premier Sandy Silver
Government of the Yukon
Yukon Legislative Assembly
Box 2703
Whitehorse, Yukon
Y1A 2C6

Dear Premier Silver,

We are writing to you today to request that your government increase the legal minimum wage to a Living Wage for Yukon residents.

Currently, the minimum wage in Yukon is well below what low-income workers need to cover costs in the territory. According to Living Wage Canada, for a person to be able to cover basic amenities, they would have to be paid \$18.26 per hour in Whitehorse. 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 in all three northern territories this coming session, 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.

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 the North a competitive and attractive place to live and work in Canada.

Because the costs for basic amenities are very high in the Yukon compared to the rest of the country, we are asking that hourly rates remain among the highest rates in the country. As such we request that in future years, annual minimum wage adjustments 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 our workers are paid fairly.

Sincerely,

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

Jack Bourassa, REVP North
Public Service Alliance of Canada

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Steve Geick', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Steve Geick, President
Yukon Employees Union

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Justin Lemphers', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Justin Lemphers, President
Yukon Federation of Labour