

Community Focus Bulletin: ***Creating Community Conversations***



Prepared by Merriam & Associates

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Our Planning Philosophy:

The Seventh Generation Principle takes its name from the Great Law of the Haudenosaunee, the founding document of the Iroquois Confederacy, the oldest living participatory democracy on Earth. It is based on an ancient Iroquois philosophy that:

“In our every deliberation, we must consider the impact of our decisions on the next seven generations.”

Unite Way releases report: Peterborough’s 2019 living wage is \$17.63/hour

The living wage for Peterborough in 2019 is \$17.63 per hour for a family of two parents and two children with both parents working. A living wage is the hourly wage required of two parents working fulltime and supporting two children and is different from the provincially mandated minimum wage.

The Living Wage project, sponsored and facilitated by the United Way of Peterborough & District, released a four-page brochure highlighting the report as well as a companion piece (Calculating the Living Wage in Peterborough and District 2019) that details the costs and provides the living wage calculation methodology. Both documents are on the United Way Peterborough & District website www.uwpeterborough.ca

To develop the report a collaborative process brought together a working group of diverse organizations and individuals from the Peterborough community. These include organizations that work with families with low incomes, and individuals with community and social policy expertise. The meetings, discussions and reflections included input from representatives of the United Way of Peterborough, Peterborough Public Health, City of Peterborough, Literacy Ontario Central South, Peterborough & District Labour Council, social policy advocates and community planners.

The concept of a living wage is founded on values of fairness central to the well-being of individuals, families, communities, and the economy. While the actual living wage calculation is focused on couple families with young children, the living wage for a single parent is likely to be higher than that of a two-parent household with children. A living wage provides an adequate

income throughout the life cycle so that young adults will not be discouraged from having children and older workers will have the means to support aging parents.

Living Wage Calculation Methodology

The principles of a community living wage calculation are laid out in the Canadian Living Wage Framework by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA).

The Ontario Living Wage Network (OLWN) has created a methodology for calculating the living wage in Ontario. The OLWN provides the tools to calculate the living wage in a community. This provides consistency in living wage calculations across the province. The following items are costed at the local level:

- Shelter
- Food
- Childcare
- Public transportation
- Communications
- Health care and critical illness insurance

The following items are costed at the provincial level:

- Cost of car ownership
- Cost of clothing and footwear
- Other Items: This amount is intended to cover toiletries and personal care, furniture, household supplies, laundry, school supplies and fees, bank fees, some reading materials, minimal recreation and entertainment, family outings (for example to museums and cultural events), birthday presents, modest family vacation and some sports and/or arts classes for the children.

It is important to note that the family expenses do not include things such as savings for retirement or owning a home, or provision for full time post-secondary education for either parents or children.

How does a living wage increase the sustainability of a community?:

- Raises consumer spending in local economy
- Empowers low-income working families to move out of poverty
- Increases civic participation (e.g. coaching a soccer team, volunteering at the public library, attending a forum about the municipal election, serving on the board of a community organization)
- Lowers child poverty rates
- Supports healthy child development
- Promotes gender equality
- Provides research-based assessment of current, actual living costs

How do we compare with other communities?:

Region	Rate
London	\$16.20
Thunder Bay	\$16.21
Chatham-Kent	\$16.33
Waterloo Region	\$16.35
Hamilton	\$16.43
Haldimand Norfolk	\$16.58
Renfrew	\$16.80
Sudbury	\$16.98
Guelph Wellington	\$17.00
Prescott Russell	\$17.15
Leeds Grenville Lanark	\$17.21
Hastings Prince Edward	\$17.35
Perth and Huron	17.55
Kingston	\$17.57
Niagara Region	\$18.12
Grey Bruce	\$18.39
Ottawa	\$18.42
Halton	\$20.38

Source: Ontario Living Wage Network

Become a Living Wage Employer: what can you do?

Nearly 250 certified Living Wage Employers in Ontario employ over 8,061 full-time, part-time, contract, and trainee/practicum workers earning at least a current living wage.

Share the message of living wage benefits, support living wage employers, and encourage employers to become living wage employers.

DETAILS HERE: https://www.ontariolivingwage.ca/individual_org_pledge



United Way
Peterborough & District



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