

MAKE IT TEN!



2010 provincial comparisons: How does B.C. stack up?

Historically, BC has had the highest minimum wage in Canada. But now many provinces have surpassed or matched our rate. When BC's high cost of living is taken into account, we actually have the second lowest minimum wage level in the country, and even lower when you look at BC's \$6.00 training wage.

With a freeze on our minimum wage, BC has the worst record when it comes to providing regular increases. All other provinces have boosted their rates in the past year. For 2009, Quebec and New Brunswick have announced sizeable boosts. Newfoundland and Ontario are committed to a \$10 minimum wage by 2010 and New Brunswick the following year.

Thanks to the Manitoba Ministry of Finance Cost of Living Comparisons, we can devise an index to compare different minimum wage rates to determine which province's minimum wage has the highest purchasing power. For comparisons here, BC is the base.

City	COLI INDEX	Provincial Minimum Wage	Date Last Increased	Indexed Min. Wage B.C. Purchasing Power
British Columbia	100.0	\$8.00	Nov 2001	\$8.00
Alberta	110.1	\$8.25	April 2009	\$7.99
Saskatchewan	74.8	\$8.00	May 2009	\$12.37
Manitoba	71.5	\$7.60	Oct. 2009	\$12.59
Ontario	109.2	\$7.00	Mar. 2009	\$8.70
Quebec	69.6	\$7.60	May 2009	\$12.93
New Brunswick	64.0	\$8.50	Sep. 2009	\$12.89
Nova Scotia	80.9	\$8.00	April 2009	\$10.63
PEI	67.8	\$8.00	Oct. 2009	\$12.39
Newfoundland	68.7	\$8.00	July 2009	\$13.88

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