

MAKE IT TEN!



Minimum Wage -- Fast Facts

The B.C. Federation of Labour says it's time to increase the minimum wage to give BC's lowest paid workers a raise.

The minimum wage in BC was last increased to \$8 in November, 2001. In 2002, the provincial government rolled back the minimum for new workers through the \$6 training wage.

With the support of a number of other groups, the Federation has launched the \$10 NOW Campaign.

To ensure that no worker in BC lives below the poverty line, we're calling for a three-step increase in the minimum wage:

1. an immediate increase to \$10 combined with the elimination of the \$6 training wage;
2. a subsequent increase to \$11 per hour one year later; and
3. an indexing formula, so that like our provincial politicians, those earning the minimum can be assured of an annual increase in pay.

115,000 British Columbians earn the \$8 minimum rate. Another 135,000 earn less than \$10 per hour. Across Canada, a significant majority, 63 percent, of minimum wage earners are women.

The Campbell government's own statistics show that low-paid jobs are actually on the increase in both sheer numbers and as a percentage of the overall provincial workforce.

Our polling shows that nearly 80 percent of British Columbians support an increase to \$10 NOW.

A number of Municipal Councils (14 at last count) have supported the call for \$10 NOW. Six BC newspapers have lent editorial support for a \$10 per hour rate.

It's expensive to live in BC—we have some of the highest prices anywhere for housing, food, transportation and tuition fees. In fact, when you take living costs into account, we actually have the second lowest minimum wage level in the country.

The \$10 figure will allow single full-time workers to just barely climb above the poverty line set by Statistics Canada. The \$11 rate will raise the income of a single earner family of two above the low-income cutoff.