



## Nearly 150 Living Wage Employers certified across BC

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**(Vancouver)** Sixteen employers across British Columbia have recently been certified as Living Wage Employers, reaching a total of 146 certified employers in BC. This represents over 19,300 staff and contractors who are earning a decent wage in their communities.

Becoming a Living Wage Employer is a voluntary commitment employers make to invest in their communities and local economies. The Living Wage for Families Campaign certifies and provides ongoing support to employers who want to make a positive difference in their communities. Living Wage Employers in BC include non-profit organizations, small and large for-profit companies, cooperatives, unions, and local governments such as the District of Central Saanich and the City of Vancouver.

“These sixteen new Living Wage Employers represent the diversity of BC’s workforce,” noted Campaign Organizer Halena Seiferling. “In this certification round we welcomed employers from the construction industry, technology, arts and culture, professional services and health care. We also certified two credit unions, a cooperative, a union and several non-profit service providers.”

“Furthermore, included in this group are our first Living Wage Employers in Kelowna, Courtenay, Summerland and Vernon. The living wage movement is growing, and we look forward to engaging more employers and workers in the coming year.”

Each year, the Living Wage for Families Campaign works with community partners across the province to calculate local living wages. The Campaign will release new rates for 2019 at the end of April, and will open the next round of employer applications in May.

“We are excited to reach the 150 mark and strive for 200 Living Wage Employers in 2019,” added Seiferling, “so we can ensure more BC workers are able to earn a decent living in their community.”

The newest Living Wage Employers are the John Howard Society of the Central and South Okanagan, Summerland Credit Union, First Credit Union, the Langara Faculty Association, the Chilliwack Restorative Justice and Youth Advocacy Association, the Vancouver Renewable Energy Cooperative, Motif Music Studios, Yellowridge Construction, Kwela Leadership and Talent Management, Goferbroke Investments, the Federation of Post-Secondary Educators of BC, Access Gallery Vancouver, Christianson & Company Event Management, Integra Medical Consulting, Monashee Health Collective, and SkyHive Technologies.

The living wage is the hourly amount a family needs to cover basic expenses. The calculation is based on a two-parent family with two children – the most common family unit in BC – with each parent working full-time.

Working poverty is a Canada-wide issue. Over 50 communities across the country, including 20 in BC, have active living wage campaigns and are advocating to improve quality of life for low-wage workers.

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