



About the Living Wage



What is the Living Wage?

The Living Wage is the hourly amount needed to cover basic expenses like rent, food, and transportation, after accounting for taxes, credits, and subsidies.

1 in 3 workers in BC don't earn a Living Wage. As costs keep rising, it's getting harder to pay for basics like rent, food, and necessities.

The Living Wage is calculated by Living Wage BC and the BC Society for Policy Solutions in partnership with community groups from across BC. New Living Wage rates are published in November every year.

In a diverse province like BC, the cost of living varies between communities. While some may have lower housing or childcare costs, others may face higher transportation costs. Regardless of location, everyone should be able to afford a decent life.

Find out the Living Wage
for your community:



Why is paying a Living Wage important?

- **It makes an enormous impact on the lives of low wage workers.** Last year, 2500 workers across BC got a pay increase to be brought up to the Living Wage.
- **It helps guide employers who want to do better.** Almost 500 employers in BC have committed to pay their direct staff and contracted workers a Living Wage.
- **It changes how we value public services.** Investments in child care, transit and housing can all bring the Living Wage within reach for more employers and workers.
- **It boosts the local economy.** Living Wage workers spend more of what they earn, putting money back into other local businesses and driving economic growth.
- **It gives employees greater dignity.** The workers we meet do varied, skilled and often difficult work which let the rest of us live comfortable lives. It's only fair that they can also afford rent, food and other essentials.

Learn More

✉ info@livingwagebc.ca

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