

THE FACTS

\$10.25

per hour is not enough to help address student debt load. Join the fight to make BC's minimum wage

\$15

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2003

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2002

550
hours

of minimum wage work just to pay for tuition

BC'S LOW MINIMUM WAGE HURTS STUDENTS

Young people from low- and middle-income families are finding it harder to access the university or college education they need to get a good job.

Tuition fees have more than doubled since 2002, and student grants were eliminated in 2003. BC's record when it comes to non-repayable student aid is dead last in Canada, and interest charged on BC student loans is among the highest in the country.

Many students rely on part-time and even full-time work to try to get by. But with a minimum wage stuck at \$10.25 per hour, they are falling behind.

Students need to work more than 550 hours, or the equivalent of 14 weeks in a full-time minimum wage job just to cover tuition fee costs. This is more than three times as many hours as previous generations.

Why is BC making it so hard for students to access an education?

THE SITUATION IS WORSE FOR VULNERABLE STUDENTS

Students who need to access adult basic education must now pay tuition fees and face an unnecessary financial burden to complete high school classes.

Cuts to English as a second language (ESL) programs and new tuition fees for ESL courses have also made it more challenging for new Canadians to complete the necessary language training to participate in the job market.

WHAT WOULD \$15/HR MEAN FOR BC STUDENTS?

An increased minimum wage along with reduced tuition fees and better loan systems for students would help to make post-secondary education truly accessible.

FIGHT FOR 15



RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE IT'S ONLY FAIR



QUICK FACTS ABOUT BC'S MINIMUM WAGE:

There are 120,000 workers in BC earning the minimum wage, and it has been more than two and a half years since they received a raise.

Minimum wage is set on an ad hoc basis with no guaranteed regular review, leaving workers at the mercy of political whims.

At \$10.25 per hour even full-time workers in BC are thousands of dollars behind the poverty line.

The majority of these minimum wage earners are women (63 per cent). Minimum wage is a pay equity issue.

Forty-seven per cent are 25 or older, debunking the myth the majority of those who earn minimum wage are teenagers.

Sixty-five per cent work for employers with more than 20 employees who could surely afford to pay more.

Fifty-five per cent have been in their job for more than one year and are no longer learning the job.

If a \$15 per hour wage is achieved, it would put BC workers 10 per cent above Statistics Canada's low income cut-off and give them a fair chance to cover the cost of the most basic necessities.

Let's build an economy that works for everyone.

Help make BC's minimum wage \$15.

Join the campaign at fightfor15bc.ca

FIGHT FOR 15