

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

WHAT IS THE MINIMUM WAGE IN BC?

The minimum wage in BC is \$10.25 per hour. However, liquor servers are paid only \$9 per hour and farm workers are paid a piece rate depending on how much they pick. The BCFED believes there should be one fair wage for all workers in BC.

HOW IS THE MINIMUM WAGE ESTABLISHED?

The provincial government sets the minimum wage in the *Employment Standards Act*. It is set on an ad hoc basis and there is currently no process for a regular review or adjustment. This means the amount minimum wage is set at often becomes a political decision rather than an economic one.

WHY IS \$10.25 PER HOUR TOO LOW?

\$10.25 per hour leaves full-time workers more than \$6,000 below the poverty line, and that's not fair. We believe that work should lift you out of poverty.

WHY \$15 PER HOUR?

\$15 per hour would put a minimum wage worker above the poverty line on all the standard measures of poverty. It would also give BC workers a fair chance to pay for the most basic necessities including groceries, rent and utilities.

WILL RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE UNEMPLOYMENT BECAUSE EMPLOYERS WILL CUT JOBS?

A recent Canada-wide study, *Dispelling Minimum Wage Mythology*, found that in the vast majority of cases, increases to the minimum wage did not affect employment numbers.

In fact, even for young workers and those in retail and hospitality sectors where low wages are more common, the researchers found, "no consistent evidence of significant disemployment effects from higher minimum wages."

Source: *Dispelling Minimum Wage Mythology*; Stanford, Brennan, 2014



RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE IT'S ONLY FAIR



WILL RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE HURT SMALL BUSINESSES?

A higher minimum wage can have positive impacts on small businesses. First, it puts more money in the pockets of low-wage workers who are likely to spend most, if not all, of their income in their own community. It will give workers more local spending power. Secondly, a fair minimum wage can assist local businesses in retaining employees. Improved retention results in reduced training and recruitment costs and provides increased stability in the workforce.

DO MINIMUM WAGE INCREASES HELP REDUCE INCOME INEQUALITY?

Economists have found that increases to the minimum wage are a key factor in reducing income inequality. Essentially, without a legislated increase many low-wage workers wouldn't see a raise at all, and the gap between the rich and poor would grow more quickly.

Quick facts:

It has been nearly three years since BC raised its minimum wage.

BC was the only province that did not raise its minimum wage in 2014.

120,000 people earn the \$10.25 minimum wage.

Sixty-three per cent are women.

Sixty-five per cent work for employers with more than 20 employees.

Fifty-five per cent have been in their job for at least a year.

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