Alberta

Improving Albertans' quality of life

June 14, 2007

Minimum wage will increase to $8 per hour on September 1

Edmonton... Alberta's minimum wage will increase from $7 to $8 per hour on September 1, 2007, to reflect the latest economic indicators.

"This increase to Alberta's minimum wage is good news for Albertans," said Premier Ed Stelmach. "With an increase to $8, Alberta's minimum wage will be the highest in Canada after taxes."

"Minimum wage offers protection for workers," said Iris Evans, Minister of Employment, Immigration and Industry. "It sets the minimum rate of pay that employers must meet and ensures that workers, especially women and youth, who traditionally are in the lower income occupations, are making a better wage. This will help recruit and retain new employees in Alberta's labour force."

With Alberta's vibrant economy and low unemployment, most employers are already paying more than minimum wage. Three per cent of Alberta's workforce, about 41,000 people, currently earn less than $8 per hour.

Future minimum wage changes will occur on April 1 of each year, and will be indexed to changes in the average weekly wage. Indexing minimum wage to the average weekly wage will reflect the actual wage changes that occurred the year before.

Providing a fair and balanced wage is a key action under Premier Ed Stelmach's plan to manage growth pressures and improve Albertans' quality of life. Other priorities for the government are to govern with integrity and transparency, build a stronger Alberta and provide safe and secure communities.

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