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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Minimum Wage Increase Cancellation Disappointing

The Niagara Poverty Reduction Network is disappointed with the announcement of the cancellation of the minimum wage increase scheduled for January 1, 2019. The current minimum wage will remain frozen at \$14.00, despite data showing that the impacts of the minimum wage increase earlier this year [has not led to significant unemployment](#).

With the annual cost of household living expenses for a Niagara region family of four conservatively pegged at over \$71,000, the Niagara Poverty Reduction Network has calculated the hourly wage necessary for families to meet these expenses, otherwise known as a living wage, to be \$17.57. The calculation reports are available at www.wipeoutpoverty.ca

“The difference between current minimum wage and living wage in Niagara region is \$3.57 an hour. The forthcoming minimum wage increase to \$15.00 an hour would have been a significant help for the many low wage earners across Niagara region and moved them closer to the actual living wage,” says Glen Walker, Chair of the Niagara Poverty Reduction Network.

“The cost of living continues to rise across Niagara region and many families working at low wage jobs are struggling to make ends meet. Providing wages that allow a family to meet its basic household needs is an important tool to address cost of living challenges in Niagara region and should be top of mind for all employers,” says Walker.

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