

LIVING WAGE HAMILTON



We want everybody to be working above the line

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Hamilton & communities across Canada are embracing living wage.

In Canada today, more than 1.8 million employed people don't earn enough at their jobs to pull themselves and their families above the poverty line: they are working and poor. Paying employees a living wage can change that for millions of Canadians and employers in about 30 cities in Canada are set to do just that.

November 2nd marked the beginning of Living Wage Week in Canada, the UK and New Zealand— the living wage is a global movement.

Judy Travis, chair of Hamilton's Living Wage Working Group, says "Living wage initiatives are based on the premise that work should lift workers out of poverty. Living wage is the amount of money an employee at a job needs to earn to cover the cost of basic necessities and to adequately participate in community life".

The Living Wage amount varies across the country due to differences in costs of living and government transfers as it is based on local costs for goods such as food, housing, transportation and childcare. Hamilton's Living Wage is \$14.95/hr.

Hamilton Living Wage Champions

In Hamilton, local employers such as Mustard Seed Co-op, Westdale Machine Company and Mission Services Opportunities Centres are being recognized this week for stepping up and paying their employees a living wage. These employers are joining other private-sector businesses and employers in the public and not-for-profit sectors to champion Hamilton's living wage initiative. Dan Peace, President of Dominion Pattern Works in Hamilton says *"Paying a Living Wage is good for business. Staff turnovers plummet, service quality and employee morale increases and productivity improves. The return on investment is significant"*.

3 international cities named Hamilton, united on need for Living Wages

As part of the week's living wage events, a unique opportunity will be facilitated by CBC Hamilton when it links up Hamilton, Ontario with Hamilton, Scotland and Hamilton, New Zealand for a first-of-its-kind 'living wage dialogue'. CBC Hamilton will live-stream the '3-Hamiltons' conversation at <http://www.cbc.ca/hamilton/> at 3pm on Thursday, November 6th Eastern Time (it will be 8pm in Scotland and 9am Friday morning in New Zealand).

Living Wage Hamilton is an initiative of the Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton, McMaster Community Poverty Initiative, Workforce Planning Hamilton and the Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction. For more information on the Hamilton Living Wage campaign visit www.livingwagehamilton.ca or call Judy Travis at (905) 521-5777 or Tom Cooper at 905-512-7863.