



## News Release

**For immediate release**

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### **Immediate Minimum Wage hike required :SFL**

The province's largest labour organization is calling on the Calvert government to announce an immediate and substantial increase in the minimum wage.

The Saskatchewan Federation of Labour says a sizable upward adjustment in the lowest legal rate of pay is badly needed and long overdue.

The last raise for those workers earning the minimum wage was two and a half years ago, on November 1, 2002.

The Federation of Labour says the present rate of \$6.65 per hour has not been even close to adequate for some time because the cost of living has been going up by more than 3 per cent per year, eroding the purchasing power of low income earners.

The Minimum Wage Board held public hearing last fall, and has since made a report to the Minister of Labour. It is now time for the provincial government to announce an increase to the minimum wage. The SFL believes there is ample justification for a sizable increase.

The SFL's brief to the public hearings called for an immediate hike in the minimum wage to \$8.16 an hour in order to pull the rate up to at least the poverty line.

Eight other provincial or territorial jurisdictions in Canada currently have higher minimum wages than Saskatchewan, with some of them at over eight dollars an hour, and some with announced increases to take effect in the near future.

SFL president Larry Hubich noted that the business press has recently carried stories of corporate CEOs in Canada getting an average of \$5.5 million annually – a 57 per cent increase in one year - with the largest companies paying senior executives more than \$50 million a year. "Maybe its time for minimum wage earners to get a 57 per cent increase," Hubich concluded.

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