

Raising Minimum Wage Not Enough...

TORONTO — Gas prices going through the roof. Food prices going through the roof.

Rentals at an all time high. The average person just can't make it on minimum wage. Not even a three job family has difficulties.

It appears that the best the Ontario government can do is increasing the general minimum wage from \$17.60 to \$17.95 an hour on October 1, 2026, benefiting more than 700,000 workers across the province. This annual increase, tied to Ontario's Consumer Price Index at 1.9 per cent, helps ensure wages continue to reflect economic conditions while protecting workers and providing businesses with greater stability. This is a balanced approach that supports workers' earning power and helps keep Ontario competitive in a time of global economic uncertainty.

The question that lingers is this enough, as food banks are operating at an all time high with no real change in any near future.

"Ontario workers are the engine of this province," said David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development. "By raising the minimum wage to one of the highest in Canada, our government is putting more money in the pockets of Ontario workers, supporting families through economic uncertainty and giving businesses the stability and predictability they need to plan and grow."

Increasing the minimum wage delivers on our government's ongoing plan to protect workers, help families get ahead and support a strong, stable economy during international trade uncertainty and changing labour market needs.

A worker earning the general minimum wage and working 40 hours per week will see an annual pay increase of approximately \$728. The increase builds on the government's broader economic and workforce initiatives, including Ontario's multi-year plan to invest in training, protect critical

industries and safeguard workplaces across the province.

Our government continues to take decisive action to protect workers, businesses and communities in the face of global economic uncertainty. By ensuring fair wages, investing in skills training and helping employers retain experienced staff, the province is building a more competitive self-resilient and self-sufficient economy that can create good-paying jobs for generations to come.

Ontario's minimum wage increases every October 1 based on the Ontario CPI, as required by the Employment Standards Act, 2000 (ESA). Roughly 35 per cent of minimum-wage workers are employed in retail trade and 24 per cent in accommodation and food services. Ontario maintains one of the highest minimum wages in Canada. Does a .35 cent increase really make a difference? The answer is obvious.



100 Women Who Care Durham Region is with Patrice Barnes and 8 others

What an incredible turnout at Wine & Cheese Networking Evening in support of 100 Women Who Care Durham. A heartfelt thank you to Mayor Kevin Ashe, Mayor of Pickering, Regional councillor ward 1 Ajax, and Patrice Barnes for joining us and supporting such a meaningful cause. We couldn't have done this event without our sponsors. Kevin Insurance, Insurance Broker - Billyard Insurance Group, ChenGanesh, Managing Principal - Wealth Bridge, and Kajan Kunabala, Mortgage Broker - Fir Mortgages. We were also inspired by remarks from Laura Oliver of LukesPlace, Fisherbrook of Ignite Durham, and Marlene Marco of Heart of Networking - each sharing powerful insights on the impact of community support. Thank you to everyone who came out, connected, and contributed to making the evening so special, 100 Women Who Care Durham is a powerful collective of women across Durham Region who are committed to making an immediate and meaningful impact in their community. Thanks to our friends from Board of Trade for the support. Together, this collective continues to create a meaningful and lasting difference - one gathering at a time.



Whitby Chamber of Commerce

Huge congratulations to Glen and Christine Smith of MultiCorp Office Services, proud recipients of the 2026 Jim Lavelle Award from the Whitby Chamber! Your generosity, unwavering support, and impact on our organization and the community truly make you so deserving of this recognition.



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