

## **\$10 MINIMUM WAGE — NOW**

### **WHERE DOES THE MINIMUM WAGE NEED TO BE RAISED?**

All across Canada – in every province.

In most provinces the minimum wage is so low that someone working full-time for a full year still falls far short of the poverty line.

The most widely accepted poverty income levels for Canada are based on Statistics Canada's Low-Income Cut Offs (LICOs). In 2005, these were \$17,895 for an individual living in a mid-sized city in Canada, and \$20,778 for an individual living in a large city.

This means that a person working full-time all year would need an hourly wage of at least \$10 to escape poverty. Not one province in Canada has a minimum wage that provides this. (CUPE)

A living wage will help approximately 1.7 million individuals work their way out of the poverty trap. (*National Anti-Poverty Organization*)

Here in Ontario the stark reality for many people is that a job is not a passport out of poverty. One-third of all low income children in Ontario live in families where their parent(s) work full-time, full year. There are workers whose home is a shelter and the grocery store is a food bank.

The problem is that Ontario's minimum wage is too low and employment standards are out of date and ineffective.