

Jordy Smith - Living Wage

1. The minimum wage should match what research shows is a livable wage; this lets workers have relative financial security, and allows them to contribute more to the market through spending. I do not think the minimum wage should be significantly higher than the living wage because this leads to layoffs by employers who can't afford increased operating expenses. However, the minimum wage should not be below the living wage. When this happens people aren't able to live securely without working extreme hours; this also increases their potential to be taken advantage of by employers.

2. I would first learn what the current wages are of all municipal and contracted services' employees. If workers are being paid less than the living wage, then those working for the city would receive a pay raise matching the determined living wage. For contracted services, a clause would be placed in contracts where employees are paid the living wage for all time spent on city work. Once these are put in place, a system would be put in place where employee wages increase along with the cost of living. This idea would act as a minimum standard alongside any current policies regarding city worker wages.

3. I would advocate the provincial government to change the Municipal Government Act to reflect the cost of living. We should continue to research the situation and find the best solutions, as well as educate people about living wages. We can lead direct action campaigns by holding public hearings and engaging with organizations who share similar goals.

4. We can foster a living wage culture by setting the example and advocating the province. We can partner with businesses that are devoted to the well-being of their employees. We can also allow opportunities for the public to dialog with the city online and in public space; this lets the public question and better understand the city's position.