



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Red Deer's 2023 Living Wage is \$18.75

The hourly wage needed for a modest standard of living has decreased by nearly a dollar.

[December 5, 2023, Red Deer, AB] Today the Central Alberta Poverty Reduction Alliance (CAPRA) in collaboration with the Alberta Living Wage Network (ALWN or "the Network") has released a new living wage of **\$18.75 per hour for Red Deer**. The living wage has decreased by \$.90 from last year largely due to a number of federal and provincial government affordability measures.

The living wage is defined as the hourly wage a worker needs to earn to cover their basic expenses and have a modest standard of living once government transfers have been added and taxes have been subtracted. The calculation is based on the income needs of three household types: a two-parent family with two young children; a lone-parent family with one child; and a single individual. It assumes that each adult is working full-time hours and includes savings for unexpected costs, continuing education, childcare, and a small amount which allows people to participate in the community.

Quotes:

"Any period of employment transition can lead to a reduction in earnings and additional strain on budgets and is a particular concern. While there may be a number of retail/entry level jobs available today, unemployment is also higher in Red Deer than other regions provincially. This creates more competition for positions, which can increase the financial pressures when someone changes jobs. Part time or casual schedules also adds some uncertainty with respect to income. Many part time positions available are more limited in hours, and the difference between 3 and 4 shifts per week can be significant for an individual earning a living wage."

Gordon Wright, Executive Director, John Howard Society of Red Deer

"Despite increasing costs on just about everything – particularly shelter – we did see some things that put downward pressure on the living wages. Government affordability measures and the Canada Dental Benefit have helped families. What's missing in Alberta is any real action on increasing minimum wage despite every single other province making increases in 2023."

Ryan Lacanilao, Coordinator, Alberta Living Wage Network

Resources:

- [16 municipalities in Alberta released their living wages today](#). Learn more about how Red Deer's living wage compares.
- Read the [full report](#).
- View ALWN's [common questions and answers about living wages](#) and [how employers can get certified](#).

About Central Alberta Poverty Reduction Alliance (CAPRA)

CAPRA stakeholders have been working collaboratively for more than a decade to find local solutions to make a real difference on poverty. We work to identify needs, advocate and influence policy; advocate, promote and support poverty reduction programs and services; and educate the community about poverty related issues. For more information, visit capovertyreduction.ca.

About the Alberta Living Wage Network

The Alberta Living Wage Network is a network of community organizations and municipalities with the goal of advancing a coordinated living wage movement in Alberta. The network assists communities in their annual living wage calculation and has certified more than 100 living wage employers in the province. For more information visit livingwagealberta.ca and follow @livingwageab on [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#).

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