



2018 LIVING WAGE UPDATE: RED DEER, ALBERTA

November 2018



Publication Author:

*Michel K. Haener, MSc,
M. Haener Consulting Services,
mhaener@telus.net*

This publication was commissioned by



INTRODUCTION

This Report updates the City of Red Deer's Living Wage calculations and provides estimates for 2018.

In 2014, a detailed report was completed which provided background information on Living Wage, described employment and income conditions in Red Deer and Central Alberta, and detailed the calculation of Living Wage rates for Red Deer and Central Alberta communities. Accompanying summary reports were also developed. In 2016, the Living Wage rates were re-calculated.

Living Wage provides an indication of the level of employment income needed to attain a decent standard of living. It is well recognized that income is both a key determinant of standard of living and a social determinant of health and well-being¹.

A Living Wage is different from the minimum wage which is defined as the lowest wage that the provincial government requires employers to pay all workers. Living Wage rates are calculated separately within municipalities in order to reflect the costs of living in a certain location.

¹ World Health Organization (2010)

What is Living Wage?

What earners in a family need to bring home, based on the actual costs of living in a specific community

Vibrant Communities Canada

A rate of pay high enough that allows families to afford a decent and dignified life

Guelph and Wellington Task Force for Poverty Elimination

An hourly wage that allows employees and their families to meet their basic needs

Living Wage Hamilton

The amount of income an individual or family requires to meet their basic needs, to maintain a safe, decent standard of living in their communities and to save for future needs and goals and devote quality time to friends, family and community

Vibrant Communities Calgary

PURPOSE & BENEFITS OF LIVING WAGE

Living Wage informs the community about the amount of income that is required to meet basic needs. This knowledge is important to understanding and addressing the challenges facing some individuals and families.

Living Wage policies and programs can work alongside benefit and subsidy programs to ensure that households are able to achieve a decent standard of living and, in doing so, Living Wage can bring other benefits to individuals and families, employers and business, and the broader community.

Living Wage Benefits²

Individuals & Families

- ✓ Fewer individuals and families living in poverty
- ✓ Fair compensation
- ✓ Improved health
- ✓ Better quality of life

Community

- ✓ Enhanced understanding of local living costs
- ✓ Increased civic participation
- ✓ Increased spending in the local economy

Employers/Business

- ✓ Improved labour productivity
- ✓ Decreased employee turnover
- ✓ Reduced absenteeism
- ✓ Improved customer loyalty

² Sources: M. Haener Consulting Services. (2013). A Living Wage for Grande Prairie: Background Report; Lee, C. and A. Briggs. (2013). Reducing the Cost of Poverty in Medicine Hat: Moving from Charity to Investment. Vibrant Communities Calgary; Living Wage Hamilton website: http://livingwagehamilton.ca/wp/?page_id=56

LIVING WAGE ESTIMATION METHOD

The 2014 and 2016 Living Wage calculations for Red Deer were guided by the *Canadian Living Wage Framework* (CLWF) which provides a set of standardized assumptions to support national consistency in Living Wage calculation³. The CLWF is also used to guide the 2018 Living Wage update.

The following two equations are the basis for calculation of a Living Wage rate:

$$\text{Annual Family Expenses} = \text{Employment Income} + \text{Income from Government Transfers} - \text{Taxes}$$

$$\text{Employment Income} / \text{Paid Hours of Work} = \text{Living Wage}$$

The Living Wage is the hourly rate of pay that allows the above equations to balance.

The CLWF suggests that Living Wage be calculated for a four-person household with two children (ages 4 and 7). Although the CLWF recommends using a family of four as the reference household, it also indicates that it is “important to keep track of the costs and benefits experienced by other family types” (p. 4). For Red Deer’s Living Wage calculation, three household compositions are included as shown below.

Reference Households



Couple, 2 Children

- Each parent (age 32-39) works full-time
- 1 female child age 4 in full-time child care
- 1 male school age child in out-of-school care



Lone Parent, 1 Child

- Single Mom age 32-39 works full-time
- 1 male child age 5 in full-time child care and kindergarten



Single Adult

- Male age 25 works full-time
- Does not live in a census family

³ Living Wage Canada website, Canadian Living Wage Framework: http://livingwagecanada.ca/files/7813/8243/8036/living_wage_full_document.pdf

A number of assumptions must be made in order to apply the calculation method. The CLWF defines some of these assumptions and allows for flexibility in other assumptions to reflect local realities.

With respect to **Annual Expenses**, the CLWF provides guidance on budget inclusion and exclusions as summarized below. These assumptions are incorporated into the Red Deer calculation.

<i>Budget Inclusions</i>		<i>Budget Exclusions</i>	
✓ Food	✓ Child care	✗ Special dietary needs	✗ Parking
✓ Shelter (rental housing)	✓ Health care	✗ Owning a home	✗ Alcohol or tobacco costs
✓ Clothing and Footwear	✓ Social inclusion	✗ Credit card, loan or other debt/interest payments	✗ Personal/disability insurance
✓ Transportation	- Cell Phone, TV and Internet; Recreation, Entertainment, and Gifts; Vacation	✗ Savings for retirement	✗ Remittances to family members living abroad
✓ Other household expenses - Bank Fees; Personal Care Items; Household operation, maintenance, furnishings, & Equipment	✓ Contingency funds	✗ RRSP, RESP, or RDSP contributions	✗ Costs of caring for a disabled, seriously ill, or elderly family member
		✗ Hobbies	
		✗ Pet ownership	

The defined household compositions and budget assumptions have a direct impact on the Annual Expenses component of the Living Wage and, in turn, the Living Wage estimate. In reality, there is considerable variation in household compositions as well as budget choices and corresponding expenditures. Because it is not possible to account for this variation in the calculation, the assumptions made are intended to reflect a reasonable set of conservative spending choices.

It is important to keep in mind the implications that conservative spending assumptions and budget exclusions might have on some Red Deer households. These include:

- Hampering the ability to care for elderly or disabled family members at home;
- Difficulty accommodating special dietary needs;
- Decreased quality of life due to a restricted ability to partake in hobbies, athletic programs, social and culture programs;
- Inability to retire early or retire without support; and

- Settling for living arrangements that are not preferred (i.e. single adults sharing accommodation despite a desire to live alone, lack of safe outdoor play space for children, limited private space for older children).

The **Tax** component of the Living Wage calculation is based on publicly available information regarding federal and provincial income tax and tax credit formulas and indexing values.⁴

The **Government Transfers** component of the calculation reflects the programs, benefits, benefits and credits that may apply to one or more of the reference households. A list is provided in the box to the right.

Descriptions of each transfer type are available online⁵. Generally, eligibility and benefit levels are based on formulas which include net income or employment income. In the case of the Canada Child Benefit (CCB), Goods and Service Tax (GST) credit, Alberta Family Employment Tax Credit (AFETC) and Alberta Child Benefit (ACB) annual indexing typically occurs.

The ACCS can offer low-income families with children a significant subsidy towards the cost of childcare. To arrive at a Living Wage estimate, an assumption respecting the reference household's income in the previous year is used to determine the ACCS amount used in the calculation.

When all other components of the Living Wage calculation are specified, the final step in the calculation is to determine the **Employment Income** that balances the Living Wage equations. The Living Wage estimate is the direct result from dividing

Federal:

Canada Child Benefit (CCB)
Goods and Services Tax (GST) Credit
Child Support

Provincial:

Alberta Adult/Child Health Benefit (AAHB/ACHB)
Alberta Child Benefit (ACB)
Alberta Child Care Subsidy (ACCS)
Alberta Family Employment Tax Credit (AFETC)
Alberta Climate Leadership Rebate (ACLR)

Municipal:

Recreation Fee Assistance Program (RFAP)

⁴ See: <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/individuals/frequently-asked-questions-individuals/adjustment-personal-income-tax-benefit-amounts.html> ; <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/child-family-benefits.html> ;

⁵ See: <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/child-family-benefits/provincial-territorial-programs/province-alberta.html> ; <http://www.humanservices.alberta.ca/financial-support/15104.html> ; <https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-adult-health-benefit.aspx> ; <http://www.reddeer.ca/recreation-and-culture/recreation/facility-admission-fees--pass-prices/fee-assistance-program/>

Employment Income by the assumed number of **Paid Hours of Work**. Paid Hours of Work is assumed to be the number of typical hours worked each week. When first released in 2013, the CLWF recommended that “the number of hours used to reflect a full-time work week in a Living Wage calculation is determined based on what typically reflects full-time hours in the province/territory”. Based on this guidance the 2014 and 2016 Living Wage calculations for Red Deer assumed a 40 hours of paid work per week. However, the CLWF has since revised its guidance to suggest that 35 hours per week be used. In order to align with the CLWF, Paid Hours of Work has been set at 35 hours per week in 2018 Living Wage calculation.

RED DEER LIVING WAGE CALCULATION RESULTS

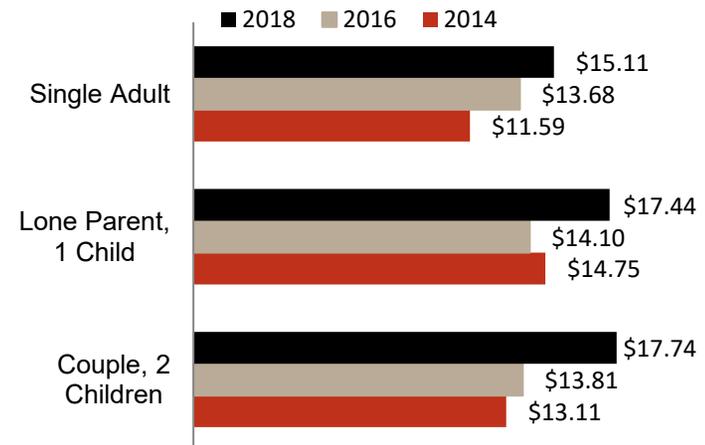
The table below summarizes the results of the 2018 Living Wage calculation for Red Deer.

	2018 Living Wage	Annual Family Expenses*	=	Employment Income	+	Income from Transfers	-	Taxes
 Couple, 2 Children (each parent)	\$17.74	\$73,013		\$64,574		\$15,748		\$7,296
 Lone Parent, 1 Child	\$17.44	\$48,759		\$31,741		\$18,433		\$1,410
 Single Adult	\$15.11	\$25,091		\$27,500		\$733		\$3,139

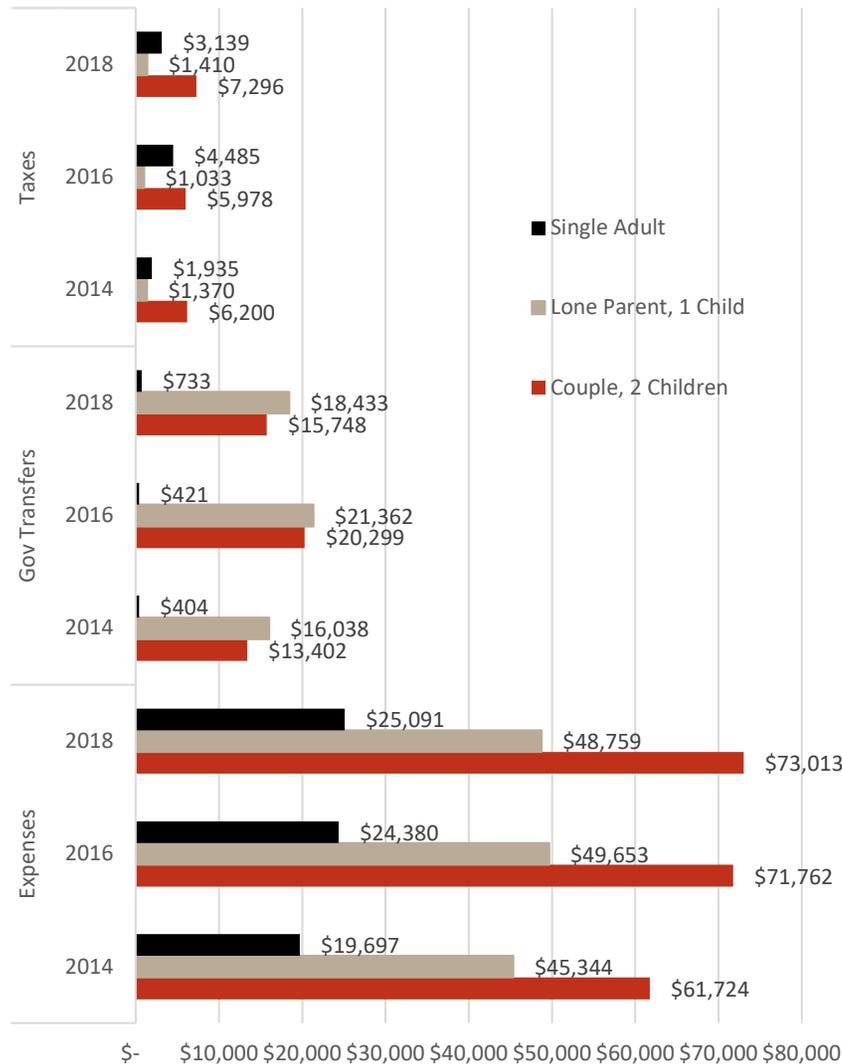
*Due to rounding, each equation may not balance exactly.

The chart to the right compares the City's 2018, 2016, and 2014 Living Wage estimates. For the Couple Family and Single Adult, Living Wage has increased with each successive estimate. The Lone Parent family experienced a decrease in 2016; however, the 2018 estimate is higher than 2016.

Year-to-year changes in the Living Wage rate can result from changes in any one of the externally determined components of the Living Wage calculation – Annual Expenses, Government Transfers, or Taxes. The corresponding level of Employment Income (and subsequent wage rate) needed to balance the Living Wage equation will be impacted.



Living Wage Components: 2014 to 2018



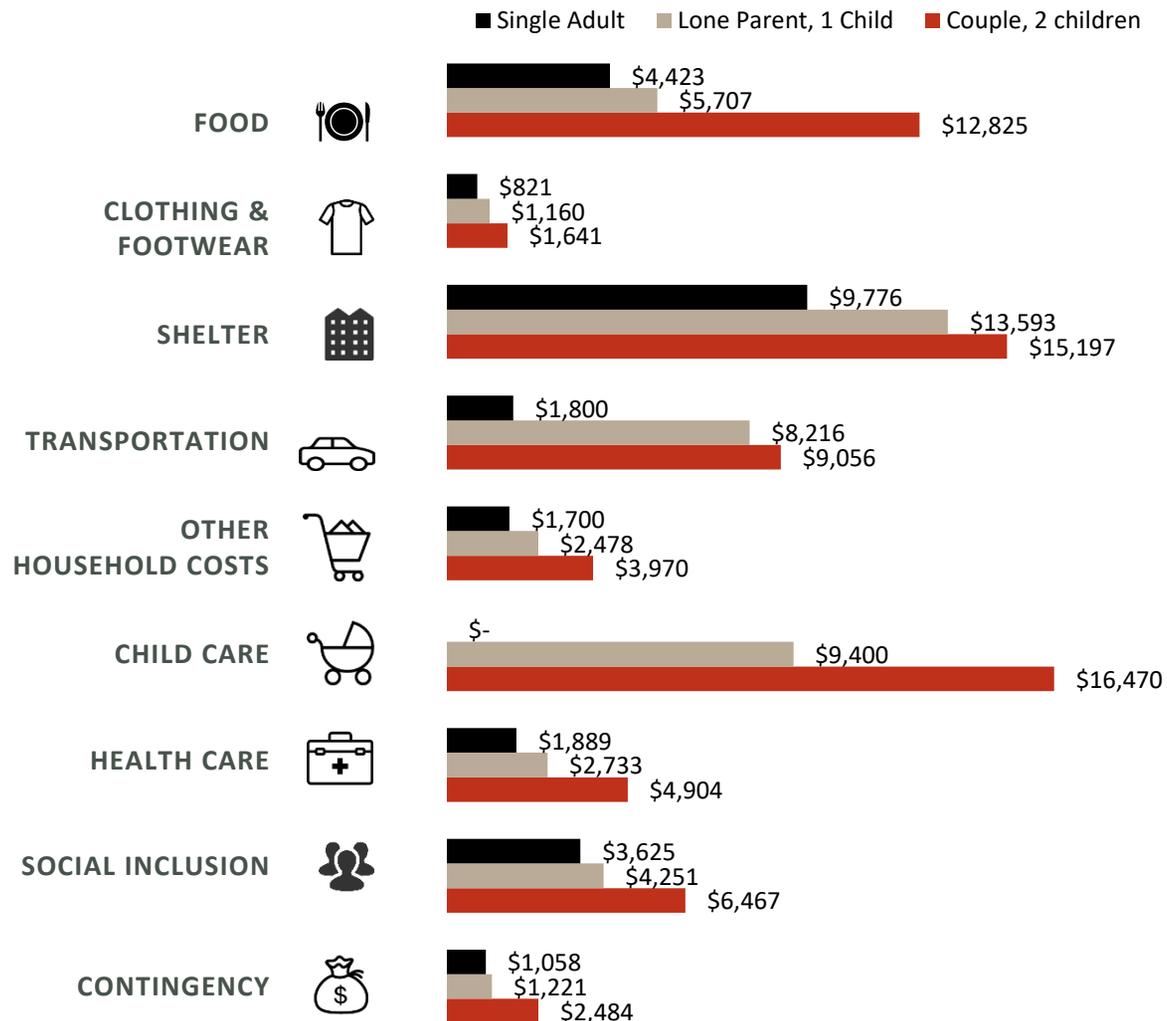
In this chart components of the 2014, 2016, and 2018 Living Wage calculations are compared.

Annual expenses increased from 2014 to 2018 for each reference household. (For the Lone Parent Family, there was a small dip in 2016). Some assumptions respecting expenses have changed over time. Most significant are changes in shelter assumptions. In 2016, the accommodation type for the Single Adult was changed from a shared two bedroom to a bachelor apartment. In 2018, the City determined that the cost of utilities was not incorporated in most local apartment rental rates; therefore, separate estimates of water and electricity costs were factored into the total shelter cost for each household type.

Government transfers significantly increased for households with children in 2016 mainly due to the introduction of the ACB and CCB programs. However, in 2018, total government transfers fell for all but the Single Adult.

Significant changes to both the federal and provincial tax structure occurred in 2016. In 2017, the federal government also eliminated the public transit tax credit and altered the education tax credit to tuition only. These changes have led to fluctuations in the tax burden experienced by different households.

ANNUAL FAMILY EXPENSES BY BUDGET COMPONENT



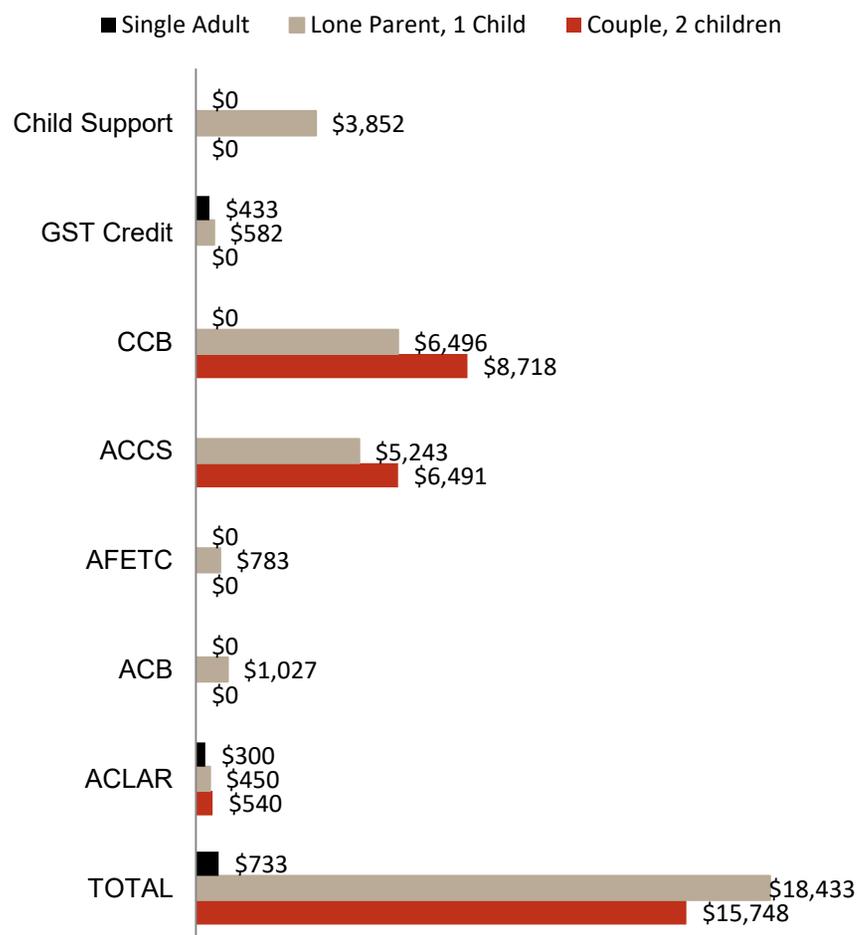
Child care, shelter and food continue to account for more than half of each household's expenses.

Transportation is the next largest expense for the Lone Parent and Couple Families.

Health care expenses saw a significant increase over 2016.

GOVERNMENT TRANSFERS

The chart below shows the government subsidies, benefits, and transfers that apply to each household and together make up the income received through government transfers.



No household qualifies for the AAHB, ACHB or RFAP programs.

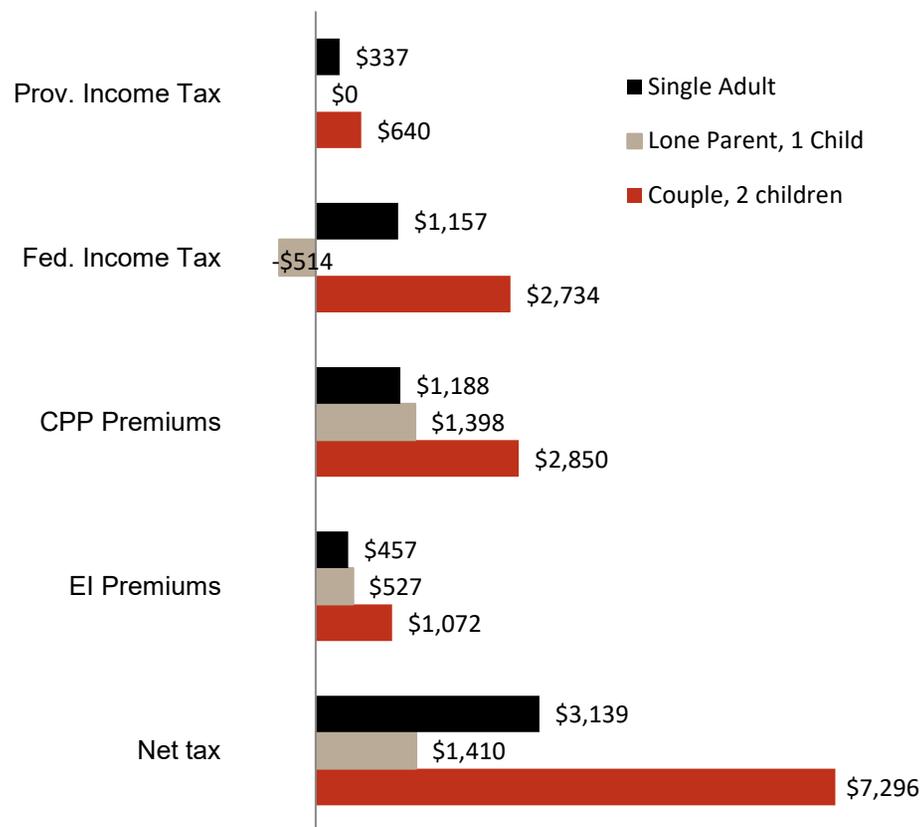
The Single Adult qualifies for the lowest level of transfers.

The CCB and ACCS provide the highest levels of support to the Couple and Lone Parent families.

*ACCS support was estimated based on online calculator results at an estimate of 2017 income levels. (The Lone Parent receives the maximum subsidy level and the Couple Family receives 75% of the maximum).

TAXES

The tax contributions and credits applicable to each reference household are summarized below.



Net tax is:

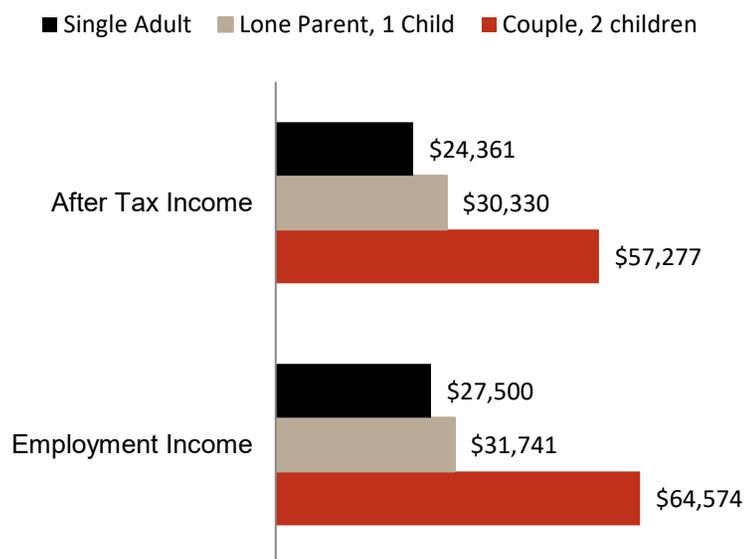
- **Highest for the Couple Family**
- **Lowest for the Lone Parent family**

CPP premiums represent one of the largest tax components for each household.

Federal income taxes are the next highest tax component for the Couple Family and Single Adult.

EMPLOYMENT INCOME

The chart below compares employment income and after-tax income for the reference households when Living Wage calculation formula is balanced. The Living Wage for each reference household is determined directly from before-tax employment income.



Both employment income and after-tax income are:

- **Highest for the Couple Family**
- **Lowest for the Single Adult**

CONCLUSION

Guided by the CLWF, the City of Red Deer's Living Wage rates were re-calculated for three reference households. The 2018 Living Wage rates were found to be:

- \$17.74 (each parent) for a couple with two children (one preschooler and one school age child)
- \$17.44 for a lone parent with one child in kindergarten
- \$15.11 for a young single adult without dependents

For each reference household, the 2018 Living Wage rate is substantially higher than in 2016 with the Couple Family experiencing the largest proportional increase (28%). A change to the assumption regarding the Paid Hours Worked per week (35 hours in 2018 compared to 40 hours in 2014 and 2016) contributed to the increase in the estimated Living Wage rates; this change was made in order to align with the most recent CLWF guidance.

Changes in Annual Expenses and Government Transfers also factored into the change in Living Wage from 2016 to 2018. For both the Couple Family and the Single Adult, Annual Expenses increased in 2018. Part of the increase in Annual Expenses resulted from a methodological change in the estimation of shelter expenses. To reflect that local rental rates (and therefore presumably CMHC data as well) do not typically include water and electricity costs, these utility costs were added to the shelter estimate for 2018.

Both the Couple Family and the Lone Parent Family experienced a decline in Government Transfers in 2018 compared to 2016. Despite this decline, in 2018, Government Transfers represented 21% and 38% of total disposable income for the Couple Family and Lone Parent Family, respectively. Clearly, government programs which target low income families continue to be an essential safety net for the working poor— without the support attained through these programs these families would not be able to afford basic living costs and be at risk of poverty impacts including food insecurity, social exclusion, compromised mental and physical health, decreased educational attainment, and ongoing intergenerational poverty.

APPENDIX A: CALCULATION DETAILS

ANNUAL FAMILY EXPENSES

The first step in calculating Red Deer's Living Wage is the determination of annual family expenses based on assumed budget inclusions and exclusions. Estimation of each reference household's expenses requires collecting appropriate data and researching local costs. For some budget items, specific assumptions need to be made respecting household spending choices.

The resulting estimates for each budget component and the specific estimation methods and data sources used are detailed below. Data sources included local agencies, local, provincial and federal government reports and websites, and Statistics Canada databases.

FOOD

The food estimate was determined from the 2018 Alberta Nutritious Food Basket Costs for Red Deer which provides an estimate of the cost of healthy eating based on current nutrition recommendations. Food prices are collected annually in communities throughout Alberta.

	Monthly (\$)	Annually (\$)
 Couple, 2 Children	1,069	12,825
 Lone Parent, 1 Child	476	5,707
 Single Adult	369	4,423

The collection of price information occurs through a partnership between Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development (Economics and Competitiveness Division, Statistics and Data Development Branch) and Alberta Health Services, Nutrition Services, with the support of local full-service grocery stores.



CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR

Statistics Canada provides estimated costs for Market Basket Measure (MBM) commodity groupings. The 2016 Alberta MBM estimates for Clothing and Footwear in small urban centres (\$) are adjusted for inflation (using Alberta CPI values, clothing and footwear commodity group) to arrive at estimates for 2018.

	Monthly (\$)	Annually (\$)
 Couple, 2 Children	137	1,641
 Lone Parent, 1 Child	97	1,160
 Single Adult	68	821



SHELTER

The shelter estimate includes average rent, tenant insurance and utility costs. The average⁶ cost of renting an apartment (3 bedroom- \$1,100/month, 2 bedroom- \$1,011/month, and bachelor- \$725/month) is based on CMHC's Fall 2017 Alberta Rental Market Report.

	Monthly (\$)	Annually (\$)
 Couple, 2 Children	1,266	15,197
 Lone Parent, 1 Child	1,133	13,593
 Single Adult	815	9,776

AMA quoted annual costs for tenant insurance (\$270, \$240, & \$212) for \$2 million in legal liability and \$1,000 deductible and \$50,000, \$40,000 and \$30,000 in contents, respectively. Utility costs are based on 2016 Survey of Household Spending (SHS) data for the second income quintile in Alberta (\$762 for water and \$965 for electricity) for the Couple Family and scaled to household size for the Lone Parent Family and Single Adult.

⁶ Rents reported to CMHC do not consistently include utility costs.

TRANSPORTATION

It is assumed that the couple and lone parent family own and operate a compact sedan (\$8,216 annually)⁷. Also, one adult within the couple family uses a bus pass (\$70/month) to allow them to get to work independently. The Single Adult relies on the bus and taxi services (2 round-trips/month at \$40 each)⁸.

	Monthly (\$)	Annually (\$)
 Couple, 2 Children	755	9,056
 Lone Parent, 1 Child	685	8,216
 Single Adult	150	1,800

OTHER HOUSEHOLD COSTS

Other household costs include: bank fees; allowance for children over 6; laundry; household operation, maintenance, furnishings, and equipment; personal care items; and reading materials. The assumptions, methods, and sources used to estimate each of these expenses are detailed below.

	Monthly (\$)	Annually (\$)
 Couple, 2 Children	331	3,970
 Lone Parent, 1 Child	207	2,478
 Single Adult	151	1,808

Bank Fees - Service fees apply to most chequing accounts. A survey of major banks suggests that fees can be kept to about \$10/month by limiting transactions.

Allowance for Children over 6 - Many parents choose to pay their children a weekly allowance in exchange for help with chores around the house. An article in Canadian Living suggests that a rule of thumb for the amount of allowance paid per week is the child's age in dollars⁹. For the purpose of this study we have assumed a \$40 monthly allowance for the nine year-old child.

⁷ Canadian Automobile Association's Driving Cost Calculator available at: http://caa.ca/car_costs/

⁸ Although Red Deer's bus system is a viable option as the primary mode of transportation for some families, 2016 National Household Survey indicates that less than 5% of the working population in Red Deer relies on public transit to commute to work.

⁹ Godfrey, Neal. (2013). *Kids' Allowance Tips*. Canadian Living Magazine, December 20.

Laundry – Apartment living typically comes with the need to pay for laundry services. It is assumed that the cost of washing and drying one load is \$4 and that the number of loads per week is 3, 2, and 1 for the couple family, lone parent family and single adult, respectively. The resulting annual cost estimates are: \$624, \$416, and \$208.

Household Operation, Maintenance, Furnishings, and Equipment - Determining a budget for household operation, maintenance, furnishings and equipment is a difficult task given that necessary expenditures will vary from year to year for households. The Statistic Canada's 2016 Survey of Household Spending (SHS) reports on average expenditures of Alberta households by income quintile. Spending allocated to these expenditures for Alberta households in the second income quintile is used as a proxy (excluding spending on communications pets, gardening, and other components that would typical not apply to apartment living)¹⁰. This figure is adjusted for household size and inflation. The resulting annual estimates are \$1,725, \$1,220, and \$862 for the couple family, lone parent family and single adult, respectively.

Personal Care Items - As above, results from Statistic Canada's 2016 SHS are used to estimate the spending allocated to personal care items. With appropriate adjustments for household size and inflation applied, the resulting annual estimates are \$1,021, \$722, and \$510 for the Couple Family, Lone Parent Family and Single Adult, respectively.

Reading Materials - It is assumed that each household relies on the internet and the public library to access reading materials. A Red Deer Public Library Card is free to City residents.

¹⁰ The second income quintile was chosen because the average household expenditures this quintile best corresponds to the annual family expenses for the family of four in this study. Several spending sub-categories were reported as unreliable for 2016; where there was data in the last 5 years, and average is used.


CHILD CARE

With parents working full-time, it is assumed child care is needed for all children. The couple pays for after school care for the older child and day care for the younger child. The lone parent's child attends a day care program that includes kindergarten programming.

	Monthly (\$)	Annually (\$)
 Couple, 2 Children	1,373	16,470
 Lone Parent, 1 Child	783	9,400
 Single Adult	0	0

Based on data gathered by the City of Red Deer in August 2018, typical program costs for fulltime care are:

- Day homes - \$700 to \$ 1000/month for preschool age
- Day Care - \$885 to \$1550 for preschool age
- Kindercare - \$430/month
- School Age - \$495/month

There is also one local child care centre included in the provincial pilot program with fees capped at \$25/day. It is assumed that demand would be such that many families could not access this program.

	Couple, 2 Children	Lone Parent, 1 Child
Preschool care	12 months at \$850 = \$10,200	6 months at \$850 = \$6,800
Kindercare		4 months at \$430 = \$1,720
School Age Program	10 months at \$495 = \$4,950	
Summer Day Camp (5 yrs+)	6 weeks at \$220/wk = \$1,320 (incl. before & after care) * No care required for 2-week summer vacation	4 weeks at \$220/wk = \$880 (incl. before & after care) * No care required for 2-week summer vacation & 2 week visit with other parent
Budget Estimate	\$16,470	\$9,400



HEALTH CARE

The health care budget estimates include the cost of health insurance premiums and assumed out-of-pocket expenses. Premiums are based on rates for healthy individuals provided by Alberta Blue Cross (ABC) in September, 2018. (Note that ABC restructured its Blue Choice coverage; extended health, dental and drug coverage are now priced separately).

	Monthly (\$)	Annually (\$)
Couple, 2 Children	409	4,904
Lone Parent, 1 Child	228	2,733
Single Adult	157	1,889

Coverage limitations mean that out-of-pocket costs will be incurred. Vision coverage (\$200/person every two years) is assumed sufficient if discount eyewear suppliers are used. Other assumptions are outlined below.

Alberta Blue Cross (Monthly rates (\$) for each family member as of Sept 2018)					
Plan	Benefit	Age 4 & under	Age 5 - 20	Age 21 - 34	Age 35 - 44
C	Extended health	10.20	14.50	34.80	35.50
C	Dental	7.80	34.60	64.00	66.60
C	Drug	8.60	10.90	29.00	33.90
	Total	26.60	60.00	127.80	136.00

Expense	Assumptions	Coverage	Out-of-Pocket Expenditures (\$)		
			Couple, 2 Children	Lone Parent, 1 Child	Single Person
Premiums	Age 21-34 rate is used for all adults		342.20x12=4,106	187.80x12=2,254	127.80x12=1,534
Drug	\$200/person	80% to \$10k/yr	160	80	40
Extended Health	Physio -3 visits/adult at:	\$50/visit	230	115	115
	*Combined total of \$500/yr/person for physio, chiro, massage	\$105/80/80			
Dental	Chiropractic - 3 visits/adult at:	\$35/visit	232	116	116
	\$125/48/48				
Dental	1 recall (\$64), 1 unit each of polishing (\$60), scaling (\$67), fluoride (\$29) & complete radiograph series (\$199)/yr/person	80% up to \$600/yr 1, \$1250 other yrs/ person	336	168	84
	* Costs obtained from AB General Dentist Fee Guide, Jan. 1, 2018				
Budget Estimate			4,904	2,733	1,889

** Note that due to a significant increase in premiums compared to 2016, direct costs without insurance coverage (\$3,947, \$1,974, and \$1,230 for the Couple Family, Lone Parent Family and Single Adult, respectively) are such that some households may opt not to attain coverage.



SOCIAL INCLUSION

Social inclusion expenses relate to spending on goods and services that allow for fuller participation in society. Expenditures for cell phones for each adult, basic TV and internet service, adult education, recreation, entertainment, a modest vacation, and conservative spending on gifts are included.

	Monthly (\$)	Annually (\$)
 Couple, 2 Children	539	6,467
 Lone Parent, 1 Child	354	4,251
 Single Adult	302	3,625

Cell Phone(s), Cable and Internet - In summer 2018, regular monthly fees (to the nearest dollar) for basic TV and internet from the major providers (Shaw and Telus) were found to be as low as \$40. For cellular service, the least cost smart phone plan available from a major provider was found to be \$55/month is used. It is assumed that each adult has a smart phone.

Adult Education - For many low-wage earners, lack of post-secondary education limits access to employment opportunities that might allow them to step out of poverty. For this reason, the CLWF suggests assuming that one adult household member is engaged in a post-secondary or continuing education program through evening classes at a local college. In this case, it is assumed that an adult in each family takes two courses per year at Red Deer College where estimated program costs (tuition, and all fees) for a three-credit course is \$379.

Recreation and Entertainment - It is assumed that each individual obtains a Collicutt Recreation Centre card and each adult participates on one adult sports team each year at a cost of \$150 each. A Netflix account¹¹ and twelve restaurant outings are purchased. Each household is assumed to have one computer with related costs based on the 2016 Alberta SHS value for the second income quintile. The estimated cost of children's toys is taken from 2016 Alberta SHS aggregate data as this information was not available by income quintiles; the value is adjusted for household size for the Lone Parent Family with 1 child.

¹¹ The Netflix subscription replaces the previous assumption in 2014 and 2016 of theatre outings.

	Couple, 2 children	Lone Parent, 1 Child	Single Adult
Colicutt Recreation Centre Cards	Family membership: \$1236	Child & Adult: \$779	Adult Membership: \$557
Adult Sports League	\$300	\$150	\$150
Children's Toys	\$161	\$114	
Computer equipment, software, & supplies	\$308	\$308	\$308
Netflix account	\$140	\$140	\$140
Restaurant Meals (12) (Assume avg cost/meal is: adult- \$25, child- \$15)	\$960	\$480	\$300
Budget Estimate	\$3,105	\$1,971	\$1,455

Vacation - A two week camping vacation is assumed. Five nights are spent at each of Jarvis Bay Provincial Park and Crimson Lake Provincial Park.

	Couple, 2 children	Lone Parent, 1 Child	Single Adult
Vacation details and costs	Jarvis Bay Provincial Park – 5 nights at \$23/night +\$12 reservation fee Crimson Lake Provincial Park – 5 nights at \$33/night + \$12 reservation fee		
	Costs fully incurred	Cost-shared with another family	Cost-shared with a friend
Budget Estimate	\$304	\$152	\$152

Gifts – Conservative spending on gifts is assumed.

	Couple, 2 children	Lone Parent, 1 Child	Single Adult
Christmas Gifts (\$25/child, \$40/spouse)	130	25	
Birthday Gifts (\$25/child, \$40/spouse)	130	25	
Birthday Party Gifts (\$15/gift, each child attends 4 parties)	120	60	
Other Gifts (3) (\$40/gift)	120	120	120
Budget Estimate	\$500	\$230	\$120



CONTINGENCY

To be prepared for emergencies and unforeseen expenses, each household put aside a small amount of their income each month. The total annual amount is based on two weeks of employment income (before-tax). The amount is calculated through a formula within the Living Wage calculation spreadsheet.

	Monthly (\$)	Annually (\$)
 Couple, 2 Children	207	2,484
 Lone Parent, 1 Child	102	1,221
 Single Adult	88	1,058