

## **An open letter to Premier Pallister on the minimum wage**

This year, the minimum wage will increase in every province but two – Newfoundland and Labrador, and Manitoba. At \$11 per hour, Manitoba's minimum wage falls far short of what families need to get by.

Manitoba's new government has refused to commit to an increase in the minimum wage, forcing families to make impossible choices between paying rent or buying groceries, school supplies and other essentials.

Sixty percent of our province's minimum wage earners are women, many with children. Annual increases to the minimum wage help make life a little easier for our lowest earning families. They, in turn, spend nearly all of their income on basic needs at local businesses, helping grow our economy.

Manitoba's minimum wage usually increases on October 1<sup>st</sup> each year to help families at least keep up with inflation. Without an annual increase, inflation leaves minimum wage earners \$400 worse off, each year.

Premier Pallister, we call on you to cancel your freeze on the minimum wage and help more families make ends meet – because every Manitoban deserves a living wage.

