

# RAISING ONTARIO'S MINIMUM WAGE: THE WORKERS' CASE

**FACT:** The share of workers in Ontario who are paid the minimum wage has been growing. In 2003, they represented 3.5% of all workers. By 2012, 9.3% of Ontario employees were working for the minimum wage.

**FACT:** The minimum wage isn't just a young worker's job — 40% of minimum wage workers are older than 25. The share of workers in Ontario who are older than 35 has been growing. In 2003, they represented 19.6% of all minimum wage workers. By 2012, 27.1% of Ontarians working for the minimum wage were over the age of 35.

**FACT:** Whether young, middle-aged or senior, every worker in Ontario deserves to know they're not working for poverty wages. At \$10.25, minimum wage workers fall 25% below Ontario's poverty line (the Low Income Measure). At \$14.89 an hour, the minimum wage would lift a full-time, year-round employee who works 35 hours a week 10% above the LIM. Total annual pay: \$26,060, before taxes.

Increasingly, workers of all ages are turning to minimum wage jobs to support their household incomes, to gain a toehold in the job market, even to supplement their pensions. More people are relying on the minimum wage over time. It's time to make work pay — for all workers.

## MAKE EVERY JOB A GOOD JOB

A higher minimum wage is good for workers and business.

It's one way to help ensure every job in Ontario is a good job.

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