



INCOME INEQUALITY

OUR VISION

Everyone in Guelph & Wellington has the income, resources and opportunities to fully participate in the community.

WHAT WE KNOW

The **annual income** of a single person on OW is nearly **\$12,000 below the poverty line** and **\$6,000** for a single person on ODSP¹.



The amount the **income inequality gap** has grown in a generation².

47%

Approximately **1 in 5** workers in Ontario work at **unstable employment**³.



60%

The percentage that **Ontario Works caseload** in Guelph Wellington has increased since 2008⁴.



Single adults make up over half of **OW recipients** in Guelph Wellington (**64%**)⁵.

The percent of people in Guelph Wellington that are **“working poor”**⁶.

15%



Approximately **1 in 10** people in Guelph Wellington are **living in poverty**⁷.

7%

The **unemployment rate** in Guelph⁸.

\$15.95

The hourly rate someone in Guelph Wellington would need for a **living wage**⁹.

WHAT MUNICIPALITIES CAN DO

- Adopt an internal living wage policy within the municipality.
 - Champion and promote the living wage among local employers.
 - Offer recreation, cultural and transportation subsidies for individuals with income at or below the living wage.
 - Support the development of affordable housing for low-income renters.
 - Advocate to federal and provincial governments on issues related to income, housing, food insecurity and health.
 - Take a leadership position by naming poverty as an issue, keeping it on the public agenda, and developing public/private partnerships.
 - Engage people with lived experience of poverty in decision-making.
 - Provide information and data to help stimulate new thinking and ideas for eliminating poverty.
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QUESTIONS TO ASK CANDIDATES

- What role can the municipality play in reducing income insecurity?
 - Would you support and promote a living wage for the City of Guelph/County of Wellington (i.e. pay all municipal staff a living wage and promote the living wage among local employers)?
 - Will you continue to support and enhance the affordable bus pass program in the City of Guelph?
 - Would you provide financial support for rural transportation for people living on low-income in Wellington County?
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INNOVATIVE IDEAS



The City of New Westminster is a “**Living Wage Employer**” – the first City in Canada to do so. The City’s [Living Wage Policy](#) requires that the municipality including all firms contracted directly, or subcontracted by the City, pay employees a Living Wage, which is \$20.10 for the Lower Mainland (assuming no benefits are provided by the employer). A [Declaration](#) and a clause referencing the City’s Living Wage expectations is included in all competitive bid documents. All bids or proposals must include a Declaration. More information: http://www.newwestcity.ca/business/living_wage_employer/living-wage-policy-and-declaration

2 PROJECT COMEBACK

Newton Advocacy
Group Society
Surrey, BC

The goal of the project is to assist, empower and support homeless day labourers in finding full time, sustainable employment, independent housing, and to significantly improve participants' lives.

Results: Participants reported increased ability to participate and contribute to the community, improved support networks, quality of life and self-esteem, increased employability and independence. More information:

<http://www.caledoninst.org/Publications/PDF/671ENG.pdf>

3 PATHWAYS TO PROSPERITY



Women living in rural and remote communities, face unique challenge to maintaining economic security which impact the economic stability and prosperity of the whole family and community at large. The YMCA ST. Thomas-Elgin has embarked on a three-year project to collaborate in identifying barriers and opportunities to economic security unique to women living in the region. A 2014 report card about women's economic security was created. More information:

www.ywcastthomaselgin.org/pathways-to-prosperity/

This fact sheet was prepared by:



References

¹ Ellery, R. & Muruvi, W. (2013). "A living wage for Guelph & Wellington." Guelph & Wellington Task Force for Poverty Elimination. Retrieved from <http://gwpoverty.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/Living-Wage-Report-FINAL2.pdf>

² Block, S. (2012). "Precarious work, health and income inequality." Wellesley Institute. Toronto, ON. Retrieved from <http://www.wellesleyinstitute.com/economics/precarius-work-health-and-income-inequality/>

³ "Vulnerable workers and precarious work" (2012). Law Commission of Ontario. Toronto, ON. Retrieved from <http://www.lco-cdo.org/vulnerable-workers-final-report.pdf>

⁴ "2014 Ontario Works caseload profile" (2013). County of Wellington. Wellington County, ON. Retrieved from http://www.wellington.ca/en/socialservices/resources/Ontario_Works/2014_Caseload_Profile.pdf

⁵ ibid.

⁶ There is no official measurement of "working poor" in Canada. However, a formula has been used by other communities in Ontario: # of people below the Low-Income Measure - # of people on OW and ODSP = # as percentage of workforce. Using this formula (based on 2010 #'s), it is: 21,780 - 5151 = 16,629/111,315 = 15%.

⁷ Ellery, R. & Muruvi, W. (2013).

⁸ Statistics Canada, CANSIM, table [282-0116](#) and Catalogue no. [71-001-XIE](#).

⁹ Ellery, R. & Muruvi, W. (2013).