



# LIVABLE INCOMES & DECENT WORK

Guelph & Wellington Task Force for Poverty Elimination | September 2021

**A livable income** is the amount of income an individual or family needs to meet basic needs, maintain a safe, decent standard of living in their community, and save for future needs and goals.

**Decent work** sums up the aspirations of people in their working lives. It involves opportunities to work that is productive and delivers a fair income, security in the workplace and social protection for families, better prospects for personal development and social integration, freedom for people to express their concerns, organize and participate in the decisions that affect their lives and equality of opportunity and treatment for all.<sup>1</sup>

 **\$17.00/hr**

is the Living Wage in Guelph-Wellington. It is the hourly wage a worker needs to earn to meet basic needs. The minimum wage in Ontario falls short at \$14.25/hr.

 **66%**

of respondents who are working poor in Guelph-Wellington that held multiple jobs to make ends meet.

(The Impact of Working Poverty on Health & Wellbeing in Guelph-Wellington, Poverty Task Force, 2017)



Poverty rates of workers in non-standard employment are **2 to 3 times higher**

than the poverty rates of workers in standard employment.

(The Changing Workplaces Review, The Ontario Government, 2019)



**12.1%** Prevalence of low-income in Guelph, based on the Low Income Measure, after tax (LIM-AT)

(After-tax low income status of tax filers and dependants based on CFLIM-AT, Statistics Canada, 2019)



**1.35 million children** are living in poverty with their families in Canada.

(2020: Setting the Stage for a Poverty-Free Canada, Campaign 2000, 2020)

## Policies that support livable incomes & decent work that support:



### Solutions

- ✓ a basic income so that everyone in Canada has an income sufficient to meet basic needs and live with dignity, regardless of work status
- ✓ fair wages & livable incomes
- ✓ security in the workplace
- ✓ social protection for families
- ✓ better prospects for personal development
- ✓ social integration
- ✓ freedom for people to express their concerns, organize & participate in the decisions that affect their lives
- ✓ equality of opportunity and treatment for all.

Learn more: The International Labour Organization & [www.basicincomenow.ca](http://www.basicincomenow.ca)

## Learn More

Check-out the Ontario Living Wage Network website: [www.ontariolivingwage.ca](http://www.ontariolivingwage.ca)

Read more about the impacts being working poor has on health and wellbeing for workers in Guelph-Wellington: [www.gwpoverity.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Working-Poor-Research-Report-2017.pdf](http://www.gwpoverity.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Working-Poor-Research-Report-2017.pdf)

## Take Action

**Ask a candidate:**

What will you and your party do to ensure decent work and livable incomes for all, so that everyone can live with dignity in Canada?

**Take action as part of the Basic Income Now Campaign:**  
[www.basicincomenow.ca](http://www.basicincomenow.ca)



<sup>1</sup> International Labour Organization: [www.ilo.org/global/topics/decent-work](http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/decent-work)