



Livable Incomes & Decent Work

Guelph & Wellington Task Force for Poverty Elimination | May 2022

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.¹

Despite inflation seeing some of the biggest increases in more than a decade, **social assistance rates have been frozen since 2018.**



is the maximum amount a single adult on Ontario Works receives per month.



is the maximum amount a single adult on the Ontario Disability Support Program receives per month.



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 \$15/hr.

(Guelph-Wellington Living Wage Calculation, Ontario Living Wage Network & Poverty Task Force, 2021)



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

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



(Poverty in the midst of plenty, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives Ontario & Campaign 2000, 2021)



than the poverty rates of workers in standard employment.

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

Policies that support livable incomes & decent work:



Solutions

- ✔ increase social assistance rates to adequate levels, index increases to inflation, and end social assistance clawbacks so that people living in poverty are not penalized for accessing other benefits or earning small incomes²
- ✔ ensure jobs offer living wages, benefits and decent work conditions, including:
 - an increased minimum wage
 - legislated equal pay for equal work
 - ensuring workers have access to permanent, adequate, universal, seamlessly accessible and employer-paid sick days²
- ✔ implementing a basic income so that everyone in Ontario has an income sufficient to meet basic needs and live with dignity, regardless of work status

² Learn more: Income Security Advocacy Centre Provincial Election 2022 Participation Guide

Learn More

Read From the Frontline: An Urgent Agenda for Decent Work: www.workersactioncentre.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/WAC-From-the-Frontlines-web.pdf

Read more about the impacts being working poor has on health and wellbeing for workers in Guelph-Wellington: www.gwpoverty.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 Ontario?

Explore the Income Security Advocacy Centre's election tools & resources: www.incomesecurity.org/provincial-election-2022-tools-you-can-use/



¹ International Labour Organization: www.ilo.org/global/topics/decent-work