

# Federal Election 2025 Fact Sheet: Livable Incomes & Decent Work

Guelph & Wellington Task Force for Poverty Elimination | April 2025

In Guelph and Wellington County, too many people are struggling to make ends meet. This election, vote for bold action to ensure livable incomes, decent work and an end to poverty.

## Why This Matters...



People do not have enough money for food.

**23% of households**

are food insecure<sup>3</sup> in our community.



**Poverty is a policy failure. Government action can solve it.**



Nearly **1 in 5 children** in Canada were living in poverty. From 2021-2022, child poverty saw its largest increase on record.<sup>1</sup>

**We need a basic income foundation for everyone.**



Ontario Basic Income Pilot (2017-2019) recipients reported improved physical & mental health, reduced stress, & increased employment participation.<sup>2</sup>

**The Cost of living is rising, but people cannot make ends meet.**

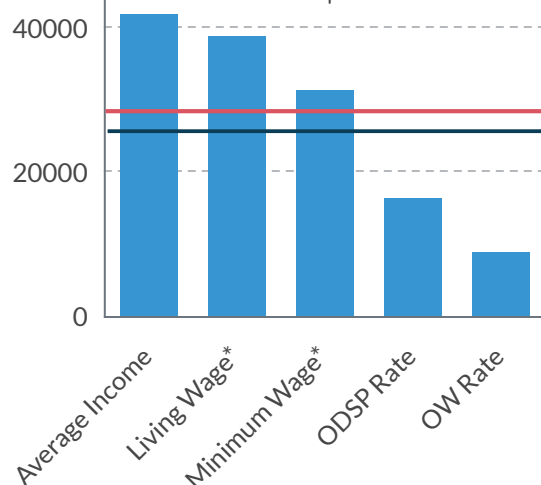
**\$17.20/hr** Ontario minimum wage

**\$21.30/hr** Guelph-Wellington Living Wage<sup>4</sup>

Only about **35% of unemployed people** can actually access EI (employment insurance) benefits.<sup>5</sup>

**Incomes are too low to live on.**

Approximate Income Thresholds - Single Individual in Guelph CMA<sup>6</sup>



— Low Income Measure (> \$28,863)  
— Official Poverty Line based on the Market Basket Measure (> \$25,710)

\*Calculated based on 35 hours x 52 weeks

Existing federal **income supports** (e.g. Canada child benefit, Old Age Security & the Guaranteed Income Supplement) are **losing their effectiveness** at keeping people out of poverty.<sup>1</sup>

## Livable Incomes & Decent Work Policy Solutions

- Implement a basic income to ensure everyone can meet basic needs and live with dignity, regardless of work status.
- Fix Employment Insurance by expanding access, increasing benefits, extending duration and ending harsh disqualification rules.
- Increase federal income supports (e.g. Canada Child Benefit, Guaranteed Income Supplement, Canada Disability Benefit) to reflect real living costs.
- Increase the Canada Social Transfer to include an additional \$2 billion to support poverty reduction.

## Learn More & Take Action!

### Learn More About Policy Solutions:

Explore Campaign 2000's 2024 Report Card on Child and Family Poverty in Canada: <https://shorturl.at/S3B4o>

### Show Your Support for Basic Income:

Advocate with the Put Food Banks Out of Business Campaign: [www.putfoodbanksoutofbusiness.com](http://www.putfoodbanksoutofbusiness.com)

### Take Action with Justice for Workers:

Check out the 'No One Left Behind' campaign: [www.justice4workers.org/tariffemergency](http://www.justice4workers.org/tariffemergency)

### Ask a Candidate:

What actions will you and your party take to ensure everyone in everyone in our community has the income and supports they need to live with dignity?

VOTE

1. Campaign 2000. *Ending Child Poverty: The Time is Now - 2024 Report Card on Child and Family Poverty in Canada*, Nov. 2024.

2. Ferdosi, Mohammad, et al. *Southern Ontario's Basic Income Experience*. McMaster University, Mar. 2020, <https://macsphere.mcmaster.ca/handle/11375/28173>.

3. Public Health Ontario. Household food insecurity snapshot PHU (2019-2023). <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Data-and-Analysis/Health-Equity/Household-Food-Insecurity>

4. Coleman, Anne. *Calculating Ontario's Living Wages - 2024*. Ontario Living Wage Network, Nov. 2024.

5. Workers Action Centre. "Four Temporary Changes to Employment Insurance You Need to Know!" *Workers Action Centre*, 17 Apr. 2025, <https://workersactioncentre.org/temporary-changes-to-ei/>.

6. Adapted from: County of Wellington Committee Report on Inadequate Social Assistance Rates, Oct. 2024. <https://shorturl.at/OdOvg>