



November 1, 2017

For Immediate Release

Two new certified Living Wage employers in Niagara as we celebrate Living Wage Week

November 5 to 11 is National Living Wage Week across Canada. Earlier this year, the Niagara Poverty Reduction Network was pleased to announce Niagara's first certified living wage employer and we are delighted that several more employers have been added to the list.

Niagara's newest certified living wage employers are Women's Place of South Niagara (WPSN) and Niagara Folk Arts Multicultural Centre. They join Pre-Line Processing of Vineland Station, Niagara's first living wage employer certified in June and the Niagara Falls Community Health Centre, certified in the summer.

"Paying a living wage in our workplace is consistent with our desire to make our community a better place," says WPSN Executive Director Ruthann Brown. "We could not deliver on services and programs without the expertise and dedication of our staff. A wage that covers basic needs and community inclusion costs is a fair way to compensate them."

Niagara Folks Arts Multicultural Centre Executive Director Jeff Burch explains, "We wish to set an example and encourage other employers to pay a living wage. We value our staff. Paying a living wage helps to reduce staff turn-over and encourages loyalty and dedication to jobs that are often difficult and demanding."

"A living wage reflects what earners in a family need to be paid based on the actual costs of living and being included in a specific community," says Glen Walker, chair of the Niagara Poverty Reduction Network. "It is an evidence-based hourly rate at which a household can meet its basic cost of living needs, once government transfers have been added to the family's income and deductions have been subtracted. Included in the calculation are food, shelter, clothing, transportation, child care, non-OHIP medical insurance, continuing adult education, and items that allow for fuller participation in society, such as communication and local recreation opportunities."

The 2017 living wage for Niagara is \$17.57 an hour. Details on the cost of living calculation and the living wage can be found at www.wipeoutpoverty.ca.

To find out more about becoming a certified living wage employer in Ontario, visit www.livingwageontario.ca

For more information on the Niagara Poverty Reduction Network and its work, please visit www.wipeoutpoverty.ca. You can also follow the Network on Facebook and Twitter.

The Niagara Poverty Reduction Network is a collective of over 30 agencies and individuals working to wipe out poverty in Niagara through education, collaboration, and advocacy to address poverty's root causes.

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