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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Niagara Eye Care Centre is Niagara's Latest Certified Living Wage Employer

The Niagara Poverty Reduction Network is pleased to announce that Niagara Eye Care Centre (NECC) has become a certified living wage employer.

Niagara Eye Care Centre was co-founded in 2018 by two local ophthalmologists, Dr. Adnan Pirbhai and Dr. El-Karim Rhemtulla. The growing multi-practice centre aims to provide the region of Niagara with world class medical and surgical eye care in a custom designed and purpose built clinical facility. The new facility, located in Thorold on Schmon Parkway, is one of the largest community based eye clinics in the Golden Horseshoe.

"Ensuring our staff feel valued, respected and providing true career opportunities in an exciting and innovative work environment is as important to us as is providing top tier patient centred care to each and every patient. In fact, we believe this approach to employment helps achieve those goals", says NECC co-owner Dr. Adnan Pirbhai

"A living wage reflects what earners need to be paid based on the actual costs of living and being included in the community," says Glen Walker, Chair of the Niagara Poverty Reduction Network. A living wage is not the same as the legislated minimum wage. It is a voluntary commitment that employers can make to compensate directly-employed and contract-employed full-time and part-time workers. The 2018 living wage for Niagara region has been calculated to be \$17.99/hour. If an employer provides benefits, such as dental and prescription drugs, as part of the total compensation package, the living wage can be lowered by about \$1.50/hour. Learn more about Niagara's living wage at www.wipeoutpoverty.ca

Niagara-area employers who are interested in becoming Living Wage certified can contact the Ontario Living Wage Network for more information at <http://www.ontariolivingwage.ca/>

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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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