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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Oakridge Cabinets is Niagara's Latest Certified Living Wage Employer**

The Niagara Poverty Reduction Network is pleased to announce that [Oakridge Cabinets](#) has become a certified living wage employer at the Champion level.

Fenwick-based Oakridge Cabinets is custom cabinetry company that provides service in Niagara and Burlington. They have been in business for over 40 years and currently employ 20 full time staff.

"In our minds, anyone working full-time hours should be able to afford their basic necessities and they should be able to enjoy much of what Niagara has to offer. Becoming a living wage employer is our commitment to this community and our team to help make this happen," says Jon Nauta, Operations Manager, Oakridge Cabinets

"We are pleased to see many local employers who recognize the value and benefits of paying at least a living wage. Paying a living wage takes direct action to address poverty and to help people afford their cost of living expenses," says Aidan Johnson, Chair of the Niagara Poverty Reduction Network.

A living wage reflects what earners need to be paid based on the actual costs of living and being included in the community. 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 2019 living wage for Niagara region has been calculated to be \$18.12/hour. If an employer's total compensation package includes benefits such as dental and prescription drugs, the living wage can be lowered by at least \$1.00/hour.

Learn more about Niagara's living wage at [www.wipeoutpoverty.ca](http://www.wipeoutpoverty.ca). Niagara-area employers interested in becoming living wage certified can contact the Ontario Living Wage Network for more information at [www.ontariolivingwage.ca](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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