

Issue: Increases to the Minimum Wage

Position

The Chamber recommends that the Provincial Government:

1. Peg future minimum wage increases to the B.C. Consumer Price Index.
2. Avoid rapid and substantial minimum wage increases due to the negative consequences for small businesses.

As identified by the B.C. Fair Wages Commission, businesses fair best when minimum wage increases are stable and predictable. Minimum wage increases should be smaller and more consistent, rather than larger and more sporadic.

Background

The B.C. Fair Wages Commission (FWC) Report was released in January 2018. The 3-person commission recommended that the basic minimum wage be increased to \$15.20 by 2021. This represents a 30% hike over 4 years. The provincial government has agreed to enact this increase.

Who is affected?

1. Small business owners
2. Service sector employers
3. Employees making minimum wage

Outcome

Minimum wage scheduled to increase to \$15.20 by 2021. Unclear if CPI indexed increases are under consideration.

Chamber Actions

6/25/2018 – The Chamber shares a package of recommendations with the B.C. Small Business Task Force (SBTF) under the Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology, which includes recommendations on the minimum wage. See [here](#) for SBTF engagement summary paper delivered to the Minister.

11/14/2018 – The Chamber hosts B.C. Minister of Labour, The Honourable Harry Bains MLA, and a dozen local businesses owners for a [roundtable discussion](#) on how the minimum wage and other labour issues will impact their businesses.

More Information

For more information on B.C.'s minimum wage increases, visit the provincial government's website here.

Contact Info

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