

NEWS RELEASE

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COMMUNITY SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL
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It takes \$18.73 per hour to raise a family in Greater Victoria

Victoria – For families with young children, the costs of basic necessities like food, rent and child care quickly add up. Even with full-time work year round, both parents in a family of four must earn at least \$18.73 per hour to escape severe financial stress in Greater Victoria.

This year's calculation of the Living Wage for Greater Victoria shows an ever increasing affordability crunch facing our residents. The Community Social Planning Council of Greater Victoria (CSPC,) announces today the 2013 Living Wage for Greater Victoria is \$18.73, up from \$18.07/hr in 2012. This increase is triple the general inflation rate for Greater Victoria. The living wage is calculated as the hourly rate at which a family with two full-time earners and two young children can meet its basic needs, once government taxes, credits, deductions and subsidies have been taken into account.

The most dramatic increases in household expenses this year are:

- Shelter costs – an increase of \$75 per month
- Transportation costs – an increase of \$21.61 per month
- Food costs - an increase of \$16.13 per month

Policy-makers can make a big difference in the affordability of the region. For example, adopting the \$10/Day Child Care community plan proposed by the Child Care Advocates of BC and the Early Childhood Educators of BC, which would reduce the living wage rate needed to be paid by employers by approximately \$3.00/hr.

But employers have a role to play, too. The Community Council will be offering a new resource to employers as of today to try and help to address this. An employer certification program will be used to recognize those that take action, and help them identify measures to help their employees. From providing subsidized bus passes for staff to paying MSP premiums or allowing for scheduling flexibility, there are identified ways of easing the pressure of rising living costs. The Community Council is walking the talk on this issue, moving to become a certified Living Wage employer themselves despite its non-profit and charitable status. We hope other employers will join to make a commitment to the quality of life of their staff and their community.

Resources:

2013 Living Wage News Release: [http://www.communitycouncil.ca/pdf/2013 Living Wage Victoria Media Release.pdf](http://www.communitycouncil.ca/pdf/2013_Living_Wage_Victoria_Media_Release.pdf)

2013 Living Wage Supplement for BC's Capital Region:

[http://www.communitycouncil.ca/pdf/2013 Living Wage Victoria Supplement.pdf](http://www.communitycouncil.ca/pdf/2013_Living_Wage_Victoria_Supplement.pdf)

2008 Working for a Living Wage report:

[http://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/BC Office Pubs/bc 2008/ccpa bc living wage 2008.pdf](http://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/BC_Office_Pubs/bc_2008/ccpa_bc_living_wage_2008.pdf)

Living Wage for Families website: <http://livingwageforfamilies.ca/>

Living Wage Employers website: <http://www.lwemployers.ca/>

2013 Living Wage for Vancouver: <http://www.policyalternatives.ca/livingwage2013>

2013 Living Wage for Abbotsford: [http://vibrant.triplei.ca/files/5013/6700/4736/Living Wage Fraser Valley 2013 Update.pdf](http://vibrant.triplei.ca/files/5013/6700/4736/Living_Wage_Fraser_Valley_2013_Update.pdf)

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The Community Social Planning Council (CPSC) is the leading independent, non-partisan, and knowledgeable voice on socio-economic issues in BC's Capital region; it fosters social innovation and integrated action aimed at social, economic and environmental conditions and to help create sustainable communities.