

I support \$15 & Fairness ... and I VOTE

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

When candidates for the Ontario Election 2018 come knocking at your door, tell them you're voting for candidates who support \$15 and Fairness for all.

Here are some sample questions you might ask your local candidates, at the door, at community meetings, or at all candidates' debates. Choose issues that you feel strongly about and feel free to change the wording.

✓ I believe the minimum wage should bring workers out of poverty. Do you support a \$15 minimum wage by January 1, 2019?

✓ I'm excited about all workers having paid sick days for the first time. But I think we need more than 2 paid days because one bad flu or a sick kid can use up 2 days. Do you support increasing the number of paid sick days?

✓ I support equal pay for equal work, regardless of whether we work full-time, part-time, on contract or through a temporary agency. Do you support equal pay for equal work?

✓ The new law (Bill 148) will improve scheduling for workers by January 2019. Will you make sure these new rights are implemented on January 1, 2019?

✓ Do you support fairer scheduling? Do you think workers should get their schedules at least two weeks in advance so they can plan their lives?

✓ I believe it should be easier for workers to join unions. Do you agree?

✓ I like the changes in Bill 148, but they should go further in protecting workers. Do you agree?

✓ What would your party do to make sure that the new labour laws are enforced?

✓ I think workers should be able to form unions across a franchise – like Tim Hortons. Do you agree?

✓ Did you know that it's legal in Ontario to fire workers for no reason at all? This means we are vulnerable at work if we speak up for our rights. Do you support changing the rules so that workers can only be fired for just cause?

✓ Did you know that only about one-quarter of the workforce is fully protected by the Employment Standards Act?

Too many workers don't get these protections. Farm workers for example are completely exempted from any protection at all.

Do you agree that all workers should be protected by minimum standards and there should be no loopholes for employers?

Keep Fighting for \$15 & Fairness

To join the movement, text FIGHT to 657-360-9487 or visit: 15andFairness.org

Everyone wins when workers receive fair wages.

Higher wages mean more spending and that's good for the economy. A \$15 minimum wage will improve the earnings of over one-quarter of Ontario's workforce – about 1.5 million people.

\$15 Minimum Wage is a \$5 Billion Boost



Strengthen the local economy

Because minimum wage earners tend to spend most of their earnings, this money will be put to work where it's needed most – in local communities. Raising Ontario's minimum wage to \$15 an hour would stimulate Ontario's economy by putting more than \$5 billion additional dollars in workers' pockets.

This increased spending generates even more economic activity, creating an effect that cascades throughout the economy and multiplies the impact of the initial \$5 billion stimulus. And it wouldn't cost the Ontario government a cent.



Create jobs

Increasing the minimum wage to \$15 an hour makes good economic sense. Household spending is a key economic driver accounting for more than half – 54% – of Canada's GDP. Businesses need customers to thrive – and to generate job growth. Without customers who can afford to buy what businesses are selling, there's no point for them to produce more goods and services. This helps explain why tax cuts for corporations and the rich have failed to create the jobs we were promised.

No amount of tax cuts will convince businesses to produce more if they can't sell what they are already producing! So today businesses are not reinvesting their profits, but simply stockpiling them – to the tune of hundreds of billions of dollars. Even the big banks and the previous Bank of Canada Governor Mark Carney have warned about this stash of "dead money."

Increasing the minimum wage will put money to work and create demand for additional goods and services, which in turn creates jobs.



Reduce income inequality

Raising the minimum wage will benefit nearly 1.5 million people, almost 60% of whom are at least 25 years old. Women, newcomers and racialized workers face systemic discrimination in the labour market and this helps explain why they are over-represented among minimum wage earners. Over 58% of minimum wage earners are women and, according to the Wellesley Institute, 35% are racialized. The share of racialized employees earning minimum wage is 47% higher than for the total population. Raising the minimum wage will help close the income gap for workers facing barriers on the job market.

But workers under 25 also deserve higher wages. We cannot assume that young workers aren't also breadwinners supporting themselves and or dependents. Decent wages for all workers mean that young people can leave abusive situations to live independently when necessary. Moreover, young workers' are very often students whose earnings go toward the cost of education, including tuition fees, housing and living expenses.



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