



Renfrew County and District Health Unit
"Optimal Health for All in Renfrew County and District"

For Immediate Release

(Pembroke, Ontario, November 8, 2019)

Living wage rate calculated for Renfrew County and District at \$16.80 per hour

Communities across Ontario are calculating a local living wage. This is the hourly rate a worker needs to earn to cover their basic expenses and participate in the community. In Renfrew County and District, the living wage rate for 2019 is \$16.80 per hour.

Many workers earn low wages and face impossible choices: feed the children or pay the rent; make the car payment or heat the house. The result can be spiralling debt, constant anxiety, and long-term health problems. The adoption of a living wage would lift low wage earners out of poverty and improve health and well-being.

The Ontario Living Wage Network is coordinating a program to certify employers for making the commitment to pay all employees at least the living wage. Currently there are over 250 certified living wage employers in Ontario.

The calculation of a living wage uses a reference household of two adults each age 35, a 7-year old boy and a 3-year old girl. It is based on both parents working 35 hours a week all year.

Costs used in the calculation of a living wage include basic items such as food, shelter, transportation and childcare as well as a modest amount for recreation. The living wage does not consider costs for debt repayment, retirement savings, home ownership or children's education.

To learn more visit www.rcdhu.com.

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For more information:

Melissa Botz, R. Kin
Coordinator, Communications and Emergency Preparedness
Renfrew County and District Health Unit
Tel: 613 735-8654 Ext. 590
Cell: 613-432-0584
Fax: 613-735-3067

media@rcdhu.com
www.rcdhu.com