

MOTION

2. Make the City of Vancouver a Living Wage Employer

At the Regular Council meeting on July 7, 2015, Vancouver City Council referred this matter to the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on July 8, 2015, to hear from speakers.

MOVER: Councillor Louie

SECONDER: Councillor Meggs

WHEREAS

1. At least 20 percent of Greater Vancouver families with children are unable to earn an income sufficient to meet their basic needs, even if both parents are working full-time, forcing them to choose between food or rent;
2. Average earnings in the region have not been increasing despite rising housing and living costs, resulting in greater inequality, child poverty and social costs;
3. A living wage strengthens families and communities by ensuring working families can enjoy basic economic security, participate fully in civic life and lift children from poverty;
4. The need for a living wage has been the focus of advocacy by First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition, the Canadian Centre For Policy Alternatives, Living Wage for Families Campaign and the Hospital Employees Union;
5. Metro Vancouver Alliance, a non-partisan grassroots coalition of more than 50 dues-paying member organizations, including faith groups, community organizations and trade unions, has mobilized to urge private and public sector employers to commit to a living wage to reduce inequality and poverty;
6. A living wage for direct and indirect civic employees was endorsed by all municipal parties in the last election, is consistent with Vancouver's Healthy City Strategy, and is already in place in New Westminster and a range of city corporations, including Vancity Savings Credit Union.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Vancouver City Council affirm its commitment to have the City of Vancouver be certified as a living wage employer by the Living Wage for Families Campaign and direct staff to report back on the steps necessary to achieve that goal.

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