

NEWS RELEASE

MINIMUM WAGE IN NUNAVUT INCREASES BY \$1.50 PER HOUR

IQALUIT, Nunavut (August 29, 2008) – Premier and Minister of Justice Paul Okalik today announced Nunavut's minimum wage rate will increase to \$10.00 per hour for all employees with no age restrictions. The increase is effective September 5, 2008.

"This step will provide economic support to our lowest wage earners and ensure that Nunavut workers are able to share in our growing economy," said Premier Okalik.

The increase is a measured enhancement that will contribute to the growth of Nunavut's private sector. Much of the additional income for the lowest income earners will be spent within Nunavut communities further contributing to the local economy.

The minimum wage has been \$8.50 per hour since 2003. This increase will give Nunavut the highest minimum wage in the country. Nunavut also has the highest cost of living in Canada.

The Department of Justice has already given employers advance notice of the adjustment.

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