

News Release

Nunavut minimum wage increase effective January 1, 2011

Iqaluit, Nunavut (December 13, 2010) – Effective January 1, 2011, the minimum wage in Nunavut will increase from \$10 per hour to \$11 per hour. This is in response to an amendment to the *Labour Standards Act* which was approved by the Legislative Assembly on November 1, 2010.

"The Government of Nunavut is committed to supporting families and reducing poverty", said Minister Peterson. "This minimum wage increase is a step towards poverty reduction which is a priority of *Tamapta* and will add approximately \$2,000 a year to Nunavut's lowest income earners."

This wage enhancement increases the ability of Nunavummiut to provide more adequately for their families. As well, local economies will benefit from the additional income which is generally spent within the community in which it was earned.

This makes Nunavut's minimum wage the highest in the country. Ontario is second at \$10.25 per hour. Nunavut also has the highest cost of living in Canada.

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